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REAL SIZES FOR
REAL KNITTERS
- UP TO XXL

Knit & Crochet

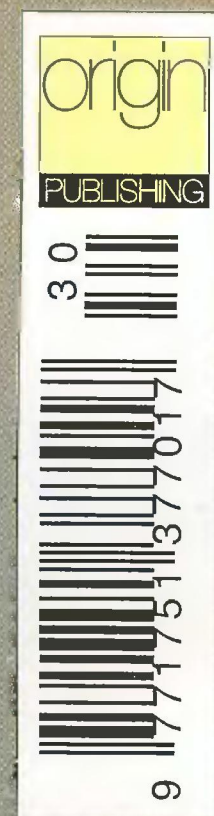
beautiful ideas for knitting & crochet

ISSUE 30
February
£4.49

WINTER FASHION

Stylish cables

Knit this elegant jacket in
sizes up to 54in chest

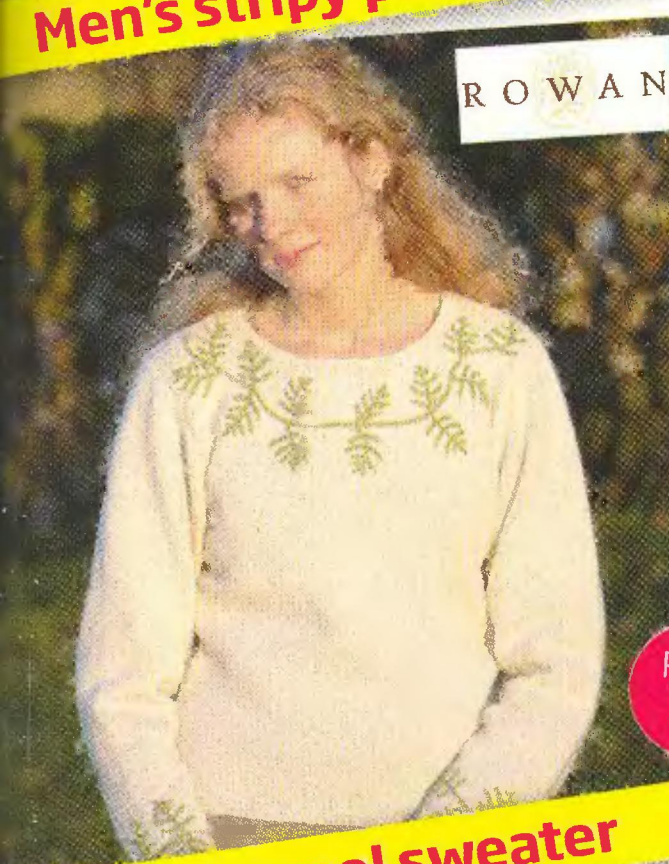


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Girl's bolero cardigan



Men's stripy pullover



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Organic wool sweater



Stylish vintage dress

WE REVIEW

- ✓ Latest books
- ✓ Men's patterns
- ✓ Chenille yarn

Butterfly toy

Use up those
leftover yarns



BABY CROCHET

Make this gorgeous
coat in a weekend!





the knitting parlour

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Wonderful new spring and summer yarns from Rowan, Sirdar, Sublime and many more now arriving plus our usual ever-expanding extensive range!

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THINGS I LOVE
IN FEBRUARY'S
ISSUE

KNIT TODAY
loves

Welcome

Free stitch markers

We're giving you all 20 handy stitch markers, to help you keep your place and count your stitches!

See page 7

Mary's masterclass

Mary Hickmott shows you how to go beyond stocking stitch in her monthly masterclass.

See page 23



With the credit crunch biting hard, we thought we'd help lighten the load by packing this issue of *Knit Today* with money-saving offers to help you save pounds on your favourite hobby!

As well as a fantastic free pack of 20 stitch markers, we're giving you an exclusive discount card for The Knitting Parlour. You'll get 10% off all purchases with your card – use it to buy the yarns needed for the projects in this issue.

You'll also find great offers on books and yarns throughout your magazine, so there's no reason not to get started on our beautiful projects. Happy knitting!

Marie

Marie Parry, Editor



We've got some fantastic freebies on page 70. It couldn't be easier!

ARE YOU A WINNER?

See the fabulous winning entries in our knit a celebrity competition

See page 10



Enter our
HobbyCraft
competition
on page 32 to
WIN £1000
worth
of vouchers!

MEET THE DESIGNERS



RUTH MADDOCK

Top knitwear designer, Ruth Maddock teaches both knitting and crochet. Ruth designed the beautiful cabled jacket which appears on the cover of this month's issue. She'd love you to try it.



TINA BARRETT

Tina Barrett loves using natural and organic yarns in her designs, many of which can regularly be found among the pages of *Knit Today*. We love her vintage-style dress on page 40, and think you will too!

**EXCLUSIVE
DISCOUNT CARD**

the knitting parlour
10% OFF
FOR knittoday READERS

Knit has knitted for as long as she can remember!



Butterfly toy

Knit this colourful toy – it's a great way to use up leftover yarn.

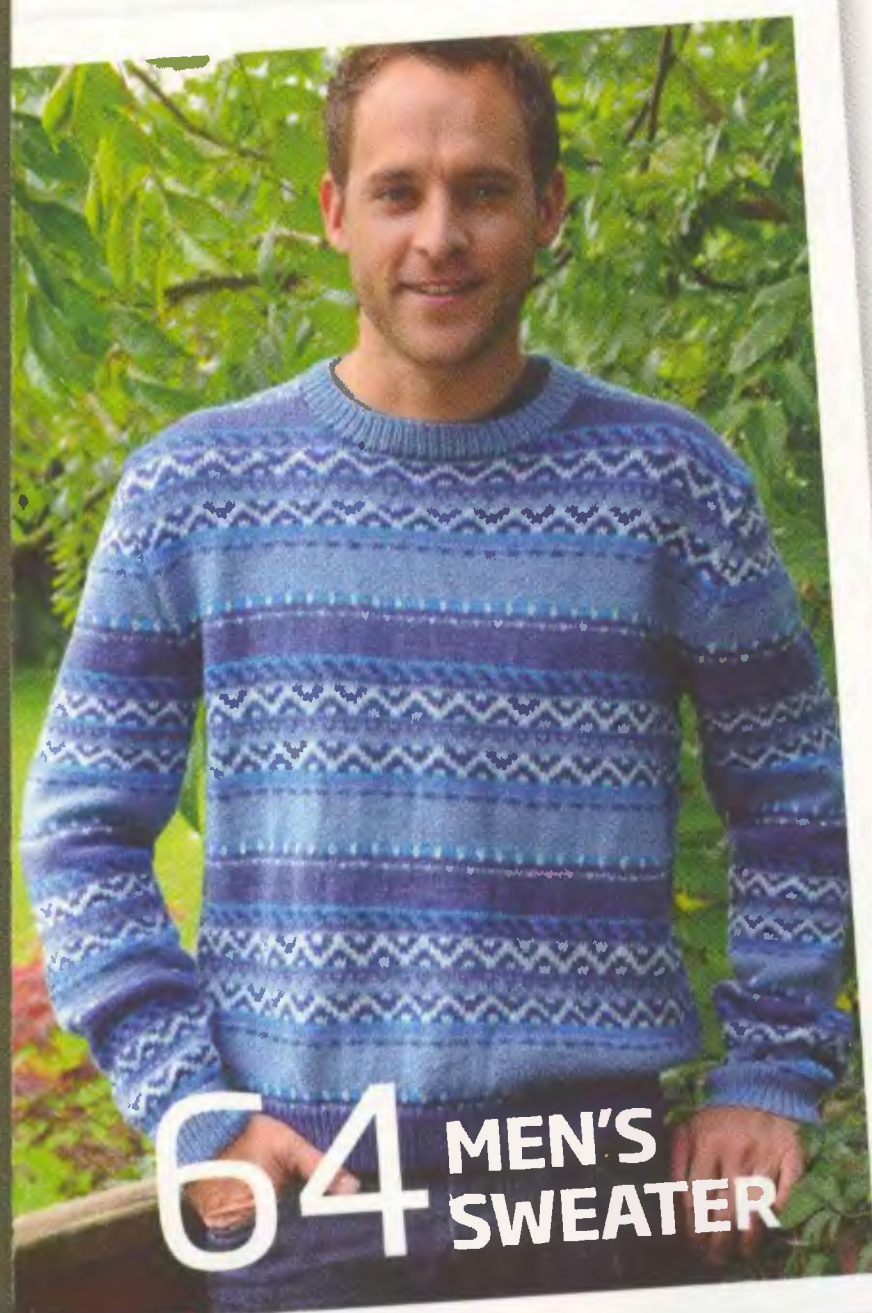
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February

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subscribe today!

Save up to 30% when you subscribe to *Knit Today*!

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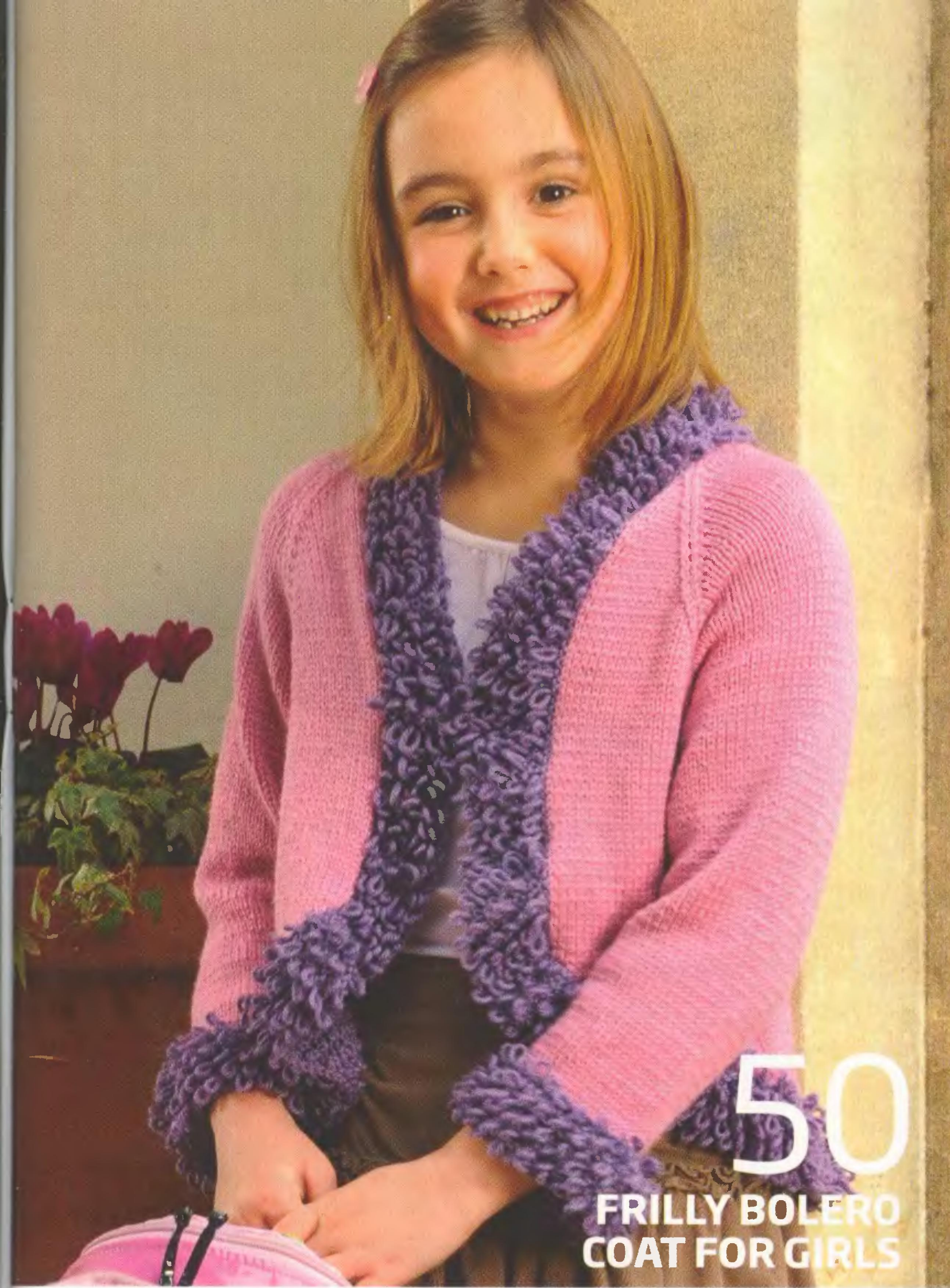
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Dear Marie



WIN!

Every letter with a photo that we print will win a **Patons scarf knit kit!**

I'd love to hear from you! Write to me at Dear Marie,

Knit Today, 9th Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN

or email me at knittoday@originpublishing.co.uk



Janet's mum taught her how to knit

Lifelong hobby

It is with great interest that I read in your magazine the letter from a lady who is teaching her little girl to knit. I have been totally blind since birth, and absolutely love knitting. At the age of four, my mother taught me to knit with knitting needles, by sitting me on her knee and guiding my hands. She used to knit all of my cardigans, and because I was asking how it was done, she proceeded to show me. I used to knit doll's clothes, scarves, kettle holders and baby booties. I am still knitting, as is my mother, making Aran-style jumpers and cardigans for myself. I did make my mother a navy Aran jumper (the wool was hurting her eyes, so I advised her to hand it over to me) and chose a pattern that she liked.

With the aid of a computer, I

am able to transcribe patterns from printed magazines for my own use into Braille. Working with different patterns helps me to identify which colour sweater I am wearing, according to the type of pattern I have used.

Knitters – keep up your skills, as knitting can become a very relaxing and lifelong hobby, as it has done for my mother and myself.

Janet Rowe, Gateshead

Marie says What an inspiring story you have, Janet! I'm glad you're able to enjoy knitting and all that it brings. Aran knitting is beautiful, and I look forward to seeing more of what you've done.



Thanks, Craftbubble!

I used to knit constantly, but arthritis put a stop to it. Since joining Craftbubble, I have started again and find that if I pace myself, I can manage. I have already completed two jackets for my grandson, due at

the beginning of March. He is so special because my daughter has had many operations since the age of 16, and despite being told she could never have children she has two beautiful babies.

Removal of a cancerous tumour last October left her with no ovary on one side, and only part on the other. We were surprised and of course delighted when she found out she was expecting, and look forward to our little miracle.

Shirley Marshall, West Lothian

Marie says Many congratulations on the coming birth of your little grandson, Shirley! It certainly sounds like you've been busy knitting things for him. Isn't

Heart-warming

I have just finished the lovely heart cardigan by Sian Brown in the November issue of *Knit Today*. I hope it cheers up my wee granddaughter, who is suffering from chicken pox. I knitted it in Sirdar Snuggly for now, but have already started knitting another one in cotton that she can wear in the summer. I hope you like it!

Arneil O'Loughlin, Co Armagh

Marie says I do like it very much, Arneil. It's a lovely design, and I'm sure it will cheer up your granddaughter! She'll be lucky to have two versions to wear for any season. What colour are you knitting the second one in? I hope she feels better soon, and do keep us posted on what you knit next for her.

STAR LETTER



Arneil will be knitting this in cotton, next!

TOP TIP OF THE MONTH

I thought other knitters would be interested to know the marvellous technique I discovered recently. I fractured my ankle a couple of months ago and had to keep off it for a while, which meant I had lots of time to knit! One day, I decided to experiment with a couple of balls of wool I had lying around in different colours, and I knitted a scarf using both at once. The result was really interesting and unique because the colours and textures blended beautifully. I'll definitely be trying that more often!

Nancy Whitson, Reading

Marie says It's amazing what can result when you try something completely different. That does sound like a good technique to try when you don't know what to do with oddments of yarn. Thanks for letting us know!



Rebecca loves her new knitted toys!

Cute, cuddly characters

I recently knitted a couple of characters from the CBeebies show *In the Night Garden...* for my little granddaughter, Rebecca. She loves the Upsy Daisy I made for her – I also knitted an Igglepiggle, too. I came up with the patterns for both of the characters myself.

Freda Gossage, Wellingborough

Marie says Those are both brilliant, Freda! I have a niece who loves *In the Night*

Garden... also, so I can well imagine how pleased your granddaughter must be with her Upsy Daisy and Igglepiggle. You've used just the right yarns and colours, and have done an amazing job designing them. Do you often knit to your own patterns and designs?

I'm sure there are loads of you who have knitted or crocheted toys for your little children or grandchildren – what have you made? Write and tell me about it!



Sarah's saving money by making her gifts

Craftbubble fun? We're having a great time meeting other knitters and crocheters there, and I'm sure you are too. If anyone else wants to have a look at our fabulous new website, simply log on to www.craftbubble.com and follow the easy instructions to register. Be sure to join our special *Knit Today* group to find out what's happening with the magazine. You'll also be able to participate in some exclusive giveaways of yarn and other knitting and crochet goodies that are especially for the *Knit Today* group members.

New blanket

Unfortunately, I decided well before the nation was involved in the credit crunch that I was involved with a serious cash flow problem of my own! In May 2008, I decided I was going to make all my Christmas presents this time, and hats, gloves and scarves

have been coming out willy nilly – there are more than 20 so far! This lap blanket has proved the most challenging, however. Its final make up is 3x3 large squares, but each square is made up of four smaller squares. The pattern for the smaller squares wasn't too challenging – it would take me a couple of hours to make an individual square. The most challenging aspects were actually the sewing up, the tying off and threading through.

I don't often say this, but I am a bit proud of the result!

Sarah Woods, Great Yarmouth

Marie says I bet that blanket is nice to have right now, Sarah! It looks so soft and snuggly. Even if you've been knitting gifts to save money this year, I'm sure your family and friends will appreciate them even more because you've put so much effort into each one. I think you have every reason to be proud of what you've done!

WRITE TO US!

If we print your letter and photo next month, you'll win a fantastic Patons scarf knitting kit, worth £10. Our star letter writer will win this *Play Days* children's pattern book, plus eight balls of red and blue Fairytale yarn, worth £30. For more information call 01325 394237 or visit www.coatscrafts.co.uk Write to us at: Dear Marie, *Knit Today*, 9th Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN or email knittoday@originpublishing.co.uk



Knit a celebrity competition gallery

Lots of you knitted your favourite celebs for our competition in issue 27 – here are some of our favourite entries!



WINNER

Gene Simmons

by **Andrea Wilson, Smethwick**

"As Kiss would say, 'Rock n Roll all night and party all day!'"

Willie Nelson

by **Janis Clinton, Edinburgh**

Janis has knitted and dressed the iconic American country singer in his classic style, complete with guitar, headband and ponytail!



Harry Hill

by **Mrs Gillian Noyes, Cwmbran**

"I had a pair of specs from a red nose day campaign nose that could be used for a number of celebrities. On my short list was also Michael Caine and Eric Morecombe – I chose Harry Hill because I like him so much. He's always funny without being smutty, and he has revitalised *You've Been Framed* and his own show *TV Burp* can always be relied upon to give you a giggle."



Kylie Minogue

by **Karen Hodgson, Nottingham**

"I knitted Kylie Minogue as a Christmas present for my husband, who is a big fan. I followed the picture of her in the famous gold hot pants (knitted with Maderia Nora), and I also gave her knitted gold stiletto sandals!"

Terry Wogan

by **Rebecca Hill, Scarborough**

"In the process of interviewing many celebs, Terry Wogan has become an icon in his own breakfast time! He's the face of BBC Children in Need, and the only voice that can make my Mum laugh in the mornings. He's depicted here modelling the TOG's trademark beige cardigan, supported by Pudsey Bear and a long string of breakfast snorkers."



WINNER

Lucius Malfoy and Severus Snape

by **Aimee Ledger, Hull**

"I have chosen to knit Alan Rickman and Jason Issacs who play Severus Snape and Lucius Malfoy in the Harry Potter films. I think they are fantastic actors and they were great fun to knit."





WINNER

Cilla Black

by Dorothy Laycock, Halifax

"I decided to knit Cilla Black because she has a warmth and down to earth quality about her, and I'm sure she would have 'a lorra laughs' if she saw this!"



Amy Winehouse

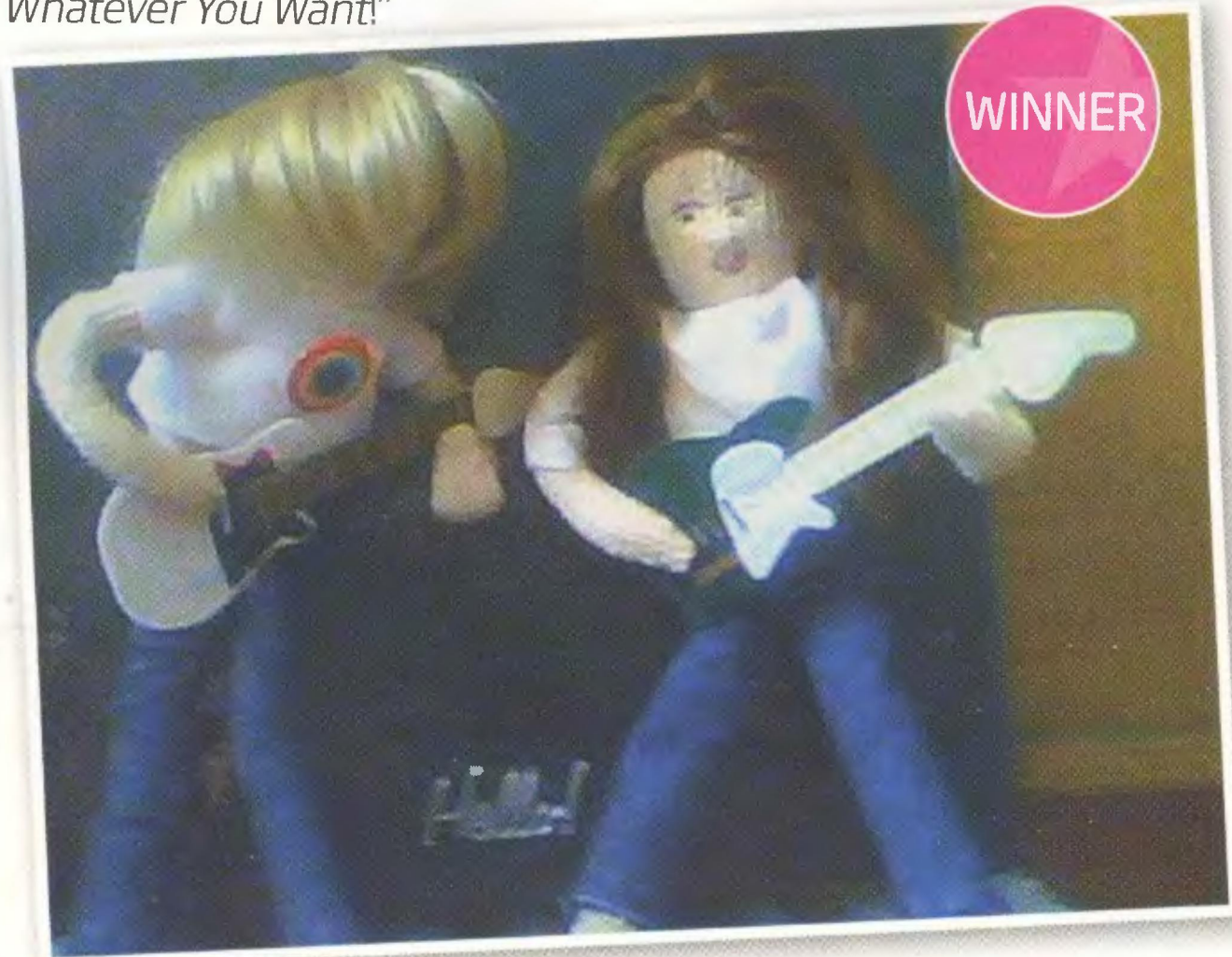
by Mrs J Clifford, Cwmbran

"I have knitted Amy Winehouse, as she is such an unusual person with a distinctive style."

Status Quo

by Vikki Todd, Newton Aycliffe

"I chose to knit Francis Rossi and Rick Parfitt from Status Quo as I have liked them since I was two years old! Francis and Rich are icons to me because they have been making music for over 40 years, and are still doing so now. And, it did state in the magazine that you could knit 'Whatever You Want!'"



WINNER

Henry VIII

by Sarah Stewart, Wirral

"I chose Henry VIII because he is the one figure from history that everybody knows. He was great fun to make as he was so elaborate in his dress in real life - trying to copy the pictures I have was a real challenge. His bejewelled codpiece, I think, was the finishing touch. Both my mum and my boyfriend have said that they want him, so I know there will be a fight!"



WINNER



WINNER

Rafa Nadal

by Yvonne Marshall, Dartford

"I made him for my mum, who's mad about his good looks!"



WINNER

Elvis Presley

by Mrs SRA Williams

"I chose to knit Elvis as his costume lends itself to all types of decoration. I did make Marilyn Monroe and Madonna, as well."



WINNER

Indiana Jones

Bronwyn Scott, Consett

"Indiana is my grandson's favourite adventure hero - he kept me right with advice on making Indiana, and is very happy with the result!"

Dame Edna Everage

by Helen Cassie, Hoveton

"As her official website says, Dame Edna Everage is 'probably the most popular and gifted woman in the world today.' As such, I think Dame Edna is a true celebrity and very knit-worthy. I hope you like her, and I think she would be honoured!"



WINNER

Henry VIII

by Esther Thomas, Cardiff

"I chose to knit Henry VIII as I've always been interested in his reign. Most picture him in his flamboyant, weighty, middle-aged period, and this is how I chose to depict him. I enjoy working with different textured yarns and beads, so Henry VIII's elaborate clothing and jewellery gave me the opportunity to experiment."



WINNER

Choose from
seven sizes
in this pattern!

Cosy cables



Having learned to knit and crochet at a young age, Ruth has taught both crafts and has a background in fashion and pattern cutting. She uses these skills to create unique designs

BY **Ruth Maddock**

This gorgeous winter jacket is trimmed with chunky cable borders on the hem, sleeves and collar to make it look as warm as it feels

Winter knits should be cosy and chunky, but that doesn't mean they can't be stylish as well. This elegant, yet simple cabled jacket has all the basic elements you want in a practical winter garment while still looking fashionable and flattering.

In the mood

We've knitted this in Lana Grossa's Mood, a soft combination of merino wool, silk and polyamide. Lana Grossa can sometimes be difficult to find in shops, however. If you're not internet-savvy, Ruth recommends that you try knitting this in

Icelandic Lett-Lopi, available from

Stash Fine Yarns in Chester (www.celticove.com or ☎ 01244

389310). There are 26 shades of pure Icelandic sheep wool yarn, available for £2.50 per ball, and the tension is a close match to Lana Grossa Mood. The balls are slightly smaller at 100m, so allow for that if you try this yarn.

One-piece wonder!

Ruth has cleverly designed this pattern to have fewer seams than you'd usually find with a jacket or cardigan. This not only makes the finishing up process go more quickly, but helps the jacket keep a better shape around your figure as there won't be any stiff side seams. The back and front is worked in one piece up to the armholes, which intermediate-level knitters shouldn't have trouble following. The wide ribbon sewn to the front inside edges gives a sleek look that also helps to reinforce those weaker button and buttonhole sections.

The end result will be a gorgeous, comfortable garment that you can be very proud of, whether you keep it for wearing just around the house, for lunch with friends, or show it off at work when it's nippy outside.



YARN

Lana Grossa Mood

Content:

56% Merino, 22% Silk, 22% Polyamide

Weight/Length:

100g/120m

Washing:

Hand wash
RRP: €5.95
(£5.38)

Woollywood,

www.woollywood.de



➔ turn over to start knitting

Thick cables give warmth to
this cosy, stylish jacket



PATTERN
DETAILS



YOU
WILL
NEED...

- ✓ 50g balls of Lana Grossa Mood, shade 004
- ✓ 5.25mm (UK size 5) knitting needles
- ✓ Cable needle
- ✓ Stitch markers
- ✓ 3 large buttons
- ✓ 1.5 metres of 5cm or 2in wide facing ribbon in a matching colour
- ✓ Matching sewing thread

tension

Yarn used knits as aran to the following tensions:

17sts and 25 rows to 10cm or 4in square over st st on 5.25mm (UK size 5) needles.

Cable pattern band measures 10cm or 4in wide. One pattern repeat measures 6cm or 2½in, with 26½ rows to 10cm or 4in.

START
HERE!

CABLE PATTERN

Using 5.25mm needles **cast on** 30 sts and work in cable patt as follows.

Row 1 (WS): K1, P2, K6, P12, K6, P2, K1.

Row 2 (RS): K3, P6, (C33R) x 2, P6, K3.

Row 3: As row 1.

Row 4: K3, P4, C32R, C33L, C32L, P4, K3.

Row 5: K1, P2, K4, P3, K2, P6, K2, P3, K4, P2, K1.

Row 6: K3, P2, C32R, P2, K6, P2, C32L, P2, K3.

Row 7: K1, P2, K2, P3, K4, P6, K4, P3, K2, P2, K1.

Row 8: K3, P2, K3, P4, K6, P4, K3, P2, K3.

Row 9: As row 7.

Row 10: K3, P2, K3, P4, C33L, P4, K3, P2, K3.

Row 11: As row 7.

Row 12: As row 8.

Row 13: As row 7.

Row 14: K3, P2, C32L, P2, K6, P2, C32R, P2, K3.

Row 15 (WS): K1, P2, K4, P3, K2, P6, K2, P3, K4, P2, K1.

Row 16 (WS): K3, P4, C32L, C33L, C32R, P4, K3.

Rep these 16 rows to form the pattern.

CABLE BORDER FOR HEM

Work in cable pattern starting with a row 13 (15: 1: 13: 15: 13: 13) until work measures 90 (100: 110: 120: 130: 140: 150)cm or 35½ (39½: 43¼: 47¼: 51¼: 55: 59)in, ending with a patt row no 7 (5: 3: 7: 5: 7: 7). Cast off in patt.

BACK & FRONT (WORKED IN ONE
PIECE TO ARMHOLES)

Using 5.25mm needles and working into edge



st, pick up 152 (168: 184: 204: 220: 236: 256) sts evenly along RS of side edge of border. Work in st st starting with a P row for 19 rows.

Shape waist

Next row: K39 (43: 47: 52: 56: 60: 65) sts, sk2togpo, place marker in this st, K68 (76: 84: 94: 102: 110: 120) sts, k2tog, place the st formed back onto left needle and pass the next st over it, then sl the st back onto right needle, place marker in this st, K rem 39 (43: 47: 52: 56: 60: 65) sts.

Work 3 rows on these sts.

Next row (buttonhole row): K3, cast off 4 sts, K to end of row.

Next row: P to last 7 sts, **cast on** 4 sts over cast off sts, P3.

Work 6 rows on these sts.

Next row: K to within 1 st of first marked st, sk2togpo, move marker up into this st, K to within 1 st of next marked st, k2tog, place the st formed back onto left needle and pass the next st over it, then sl the st back onto right needle, move marker up into this st, K to end.

SIZING GUIDE		XS	S	M	L	XL	XXL	XXXL
TO FIT CHEST	in	28-30	32-34	36-38	40-44	44-46	48-50	52-54
	cm	70-75	80-85	90-95	100-105	110-115	120-125	130-135
ACTUAL SIZE	in	33½	37½	41¼	45¼	49¼	53	57
	cm	85	95	105	115	125	135	145
BACK LENGTH	in	24¾	24¾	25	25¼	25½	26	26½
	cm	63	63	64	64	65	66	67
SLEEVE LENGTH	in	16½	17	17¼	17¼	17¾	17¾	18
	cm	42	43	44	44	45	45	46
NUMBER OF BALLS		13	14	15	17	18	20	22

Work 11 rows on these sts.

Next row: K to marked st, inc in marked st, move marker up into second of these 2 sts, inc in next st, K to st before next marked st, inc in this st, then inc in marked st, place marker in first of these 2 sts, K to end.

Next row (buttonhole row): K3, cast off 4 sts, K to end of row.

Next row: P to last 7 sts, **cast on** 4 sts over cast off sts, P3.

Work 10 rows on these sts.

Next row: K to marked st, inc in marked st, move marker up into second of these 2 sts, inc in next st, K to st before next marked st, inc in this st, then inc in marked st, place marker in first of these 2 sts, K to end.

Work 9 rows on these sts.

Next row (buttonhole row): K3, cast off 4 sts, K to end of row.

Next row: P to last 7 sts, **cast on** 4 sts over cast off sts, P3.

Now cont in st st on these 152 (168: 184: 204: 220: 236: 256) sts for 10 more rows, ending with WS row, at right front edge. Work measures 30cm or 11¾in from join with border.

Divide for armholes, shape neck

Right front

Next row: K40 (44: 48: 53: 57: 61: 66) sts, turn and work on these sts only.

****Next row:** cast off 3 (3: 3: 4: 5: 5: 6) sts, P to last 2 sts, p2tog.



The front and back are knitted in one piece, making sewing up a breeze

ABBREVIATIONS

alt	alternate
beg	beginning
C32L	Cable 3 sts 2 to left – sl next 3 sts onto CN and hold at front, P2, K3 from CN.
C33L	Cable 3 sts, 3 to left – sl next 3 sts onto CN and hold at front, K3, K3 from CN
C32R	Cable 3 sts, 2 to right – sl next 2 sts onto CN and hold at back, K3, then P2 from CN.
C33R	Cable 3 sts, 3 to right – sl next 3 sts onto CN and hold at back, K3, K3 from CN
cm	centimetre(s)
CN	cable needle
cont	continue
dec	decrease
foll	following
in	inch(es)
inc	increase
K	knit
k2tog	knit two together
P	purl
p2tog	purl two together
patt	pattern
rem	remaining
rep	repeat
RS	right side
sk2togpo	slip one, knit two together, pass slipped stitch over
st(s)	stitch(es)
st st	stocking stitch
WS	wrong side

toptip

Use the stitch markers free with this issue of *Knit Today* to keep your place as you knit this jacket!



"The cable hems for this jacket are worked horizontally, giving it an interesting look and unique stitch layout that you may not find in other patterns"

Ruth Maddock,
Knitwear designer

Next row: K to last 2 sts, k2tog.

Next row: P2tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog.

Next row: K to end.

Rep the last 2 rows 3 (4: 5: 6: 7: 8: 9) more times, then cont in st st, and at the same time cont to dec at neck edge of every alt row, 14 (14: 16: 16: 17: 17: 17) more times. Cont in st st on rem 13 (15: 15: 17: 17: 19: 21) sts until armhole measures 23 (23: 24: 24: 25: 26: 27)cm, ending at armhole edge.

Shape shoulders

Cast off 6 (7: 7: 8: 8: 9: 10) sts at beg of next row, and 7 (8: 8: 9: 9: 10: 11) sts at beg of foll alt row.**

Back

With RS facing rejoin yarn to rem sts.

Next row: Cast off 3 (3: 3: 4: 5: 5: 6) sts, K 67 (75: 83: 92: 99: 107: 116) sts, k2tog. Turn and work on these sts only.

Next row: Cast off 3 (3: 3: 4: 5: 5: 6) sts, P to last 2 sts, p2tog.

Next row: K2tog, K to last 2 sts, k2tog.

Dec 1 st at each end of every foll alt row, 3 (4: 5: 6: 7: 8: 9) times. Cont on rem 56 (62: 68: 74: 78: 84: 90) sts until armhole measures 23 (23: 24: 24: 25: 26: 27)cm, ending with a WS row.

Shape neck and shoulders

Next row: K21 (23: 23: 25: 25: 27: 29) sts, turn.

*** **Next row:** Cast off 4 sts, P to end.

Next row: K to last 2 sts, k2tog.

Next row: P2tog, P to end.

Next row: Cast off 6 (7: 7: 8: 8: 9: 10) sts, K to last 2 sts, k2tog.

Next row: P2tog, P to end.

Next row: Cast off rem 7 (8: 8: 9: 9: 10: 11) sts.

With RS facing rejoin yarn to rem sts at centre back. Cast off 14 (16: 22: 24: 28: 30: 32) sts for centre back neck, then work neck and shoulder shaping to match first side of back neck as given from *** to ***, reversing K and P rows.

Left front

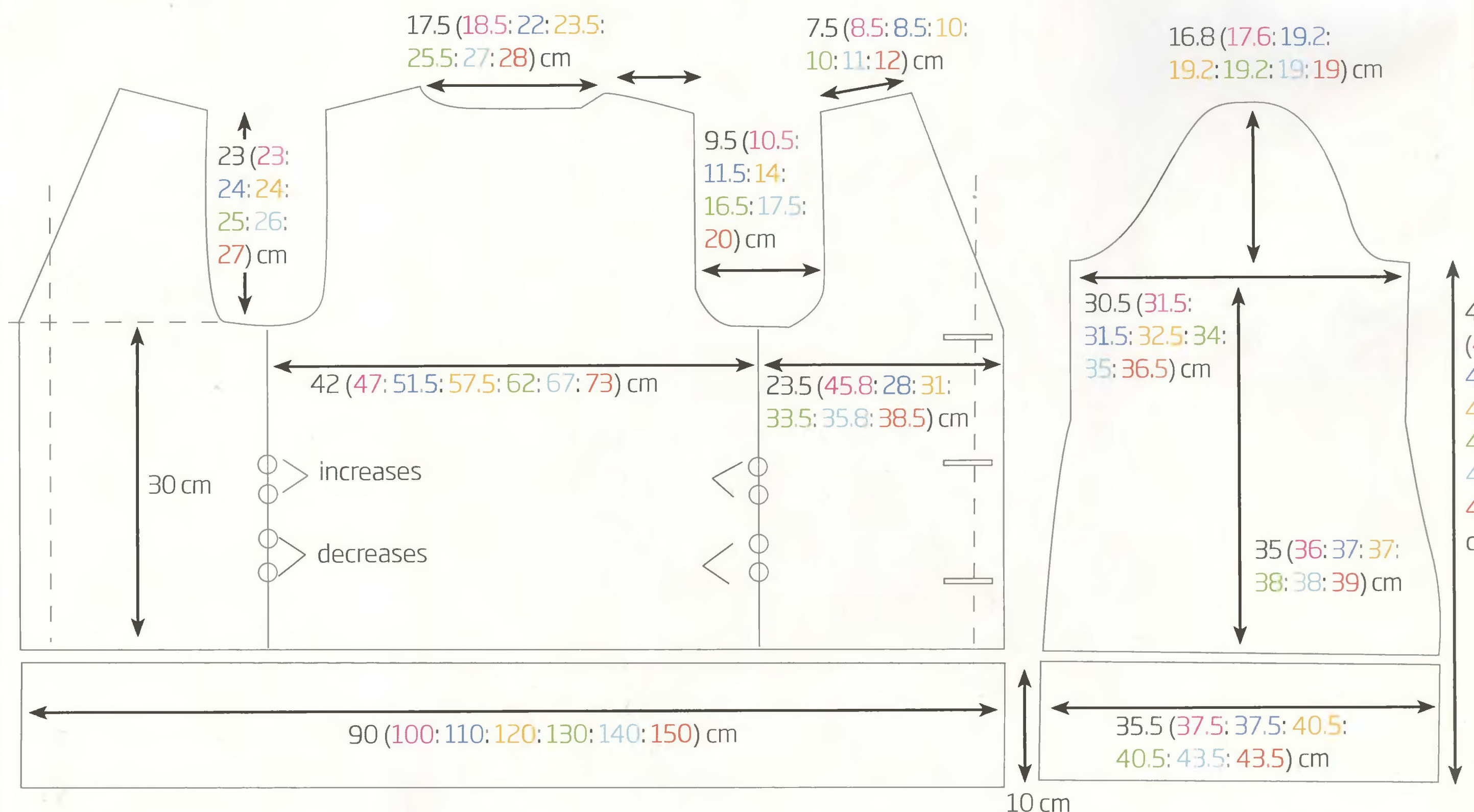
With RS facing rejoin yarn to rem 40 (44: 48: 53: 57: 61: 66) sts.

Work left front to match right front as given from ** to **, reversing K and P rows.

CABLE BORDER FOR SLEEVE HEM

Using 5.25mm needles, **cast on** 30 sts and work in cable patt starting with a row no 3 (1: 1: 13: 13: 1: 1) until work measures 35.5 (37.5: 37.5: 40.5: 40.5: 43.5: 43.5)cm or 14 (14¾: 14¾: 16: 16: 17:

Diagram for pinning out finished pieces



17)in, ending with a patt row no 1 (3: 3: 7: 7: 3: 3).

Cast off in patt.

SLEEVES

Using 5.25mm needles and working into edge sts only, pick up 60 (64: 64: 68: 68: 74: 74) sts evenly along RS of side edge of border.

Work in st st starting with a P row, and at the same time dec 1 st at each end of every foll 8th row until 52 (54: 54: 56: 58: 60: 62) sts remain. Cont without shaping on these sts until work measures 32 (33: 34: 34: 35: 35: 36)cm or 12½ (13: 13½: 13½: 13¾: 13¾: 14¼)in from join with border, end with a WS row.

Shape top of sleeve

Cast off 3 (3: 3: 4: 5: 5: 6) sts, at beg of next 2 rows, dec 1 st at each end of next 2 rows.

Dec 1 st at each end of every foll alt row, 3 (4: 4: 4: 4: 4: 4) times.

Dec 1 st at each end of every foll 4th row 7 (7: 8: 8: 8: 9: 9) times.

Cast off 5 sts at beg of next 3 rows.

Cast off rem 7 (7: 5: 5: 5: 5: 5) sts.

COLLAR

Using 5.25mm needles, **cast on** 30 sts and work in cable patt starting with a row no 15 (13: 13: 13: 15: 13: 15) until work measures 70 (71: 76: 77: 82: 84: 88)cm or 27½ (28: 30: 30¼: 32¼: 33: 34½)in, ending with a patt row no 5 (7: 7: 7: 5: 7: 5).

Cast off in patt.

Collar edge

With RS facing, pick up 3 sts knitwise at edge (this will be the outside edge) of collar and work as follows:

Row 1 (WS): Cast on 1 st and knit it, P2, K1. Place marker in last st.

Row 2: K2, turn and work back across row in patt.

Row 3: K2, turn and work back across row in patt.

Row 4: As row 2.

Row 5: K4.

Row 6: K1, P2, K1.

Rep rows 5 and 6 until work fits along end of collar.

Cast off.

Work other end of collar to match reversing corner shaping so that the extra rows are on the outside of the corner.

Making up

Pin pieces out to size according to diagram on page 16. Press or steam lightly and allow to dry. Sew shoulder seams and sleeve seams using small backstitch. Pin sleeves into sleeve head and sew using small backstitch. Sew collar edges to collar using small backstitches. Place collar with its RS to the WS of the jacket so that cast off end of collar edge is placed next to the jacket, and match centre backs. Pin into place, then sew with small backstitches.

Right front edge

With 5.25mm needles and working from the RS, pick up 17 sts evenly along right front border edge, then pick up 49 sts evenly along right front edge to the collar. Cast off knitwise on next row.

Left front edge

Work to match right front edge.

Sew facing ribbon and attach buttons

Sew facing ribbon to inside of fronts (using matching sewing thread). Make button hole in ribbon to match buttonholes in knitting, and finish edges by folding them under.

Sew buttons onto left front to correspond with buttonholes.

Sew in all ends.

toptip

Try using dark silver or pewter-style buttons to finish off the jacket to get a slightly different effect

Next month

If you enjoyed this pattern, complete it with a matching hood next month for a stylish ensemble to wear outdoors.

On sale 26 February 2009



Stocking stitch helps to set off this intricate twisted cable pattern



TOP 10 DAYS OUT

There's such a packed calendar of knitting and crafting events for February that you may have trouble choosing which one to go to!

We advise that you **phone and double-check** the details of these events, before making a long trip

1

CREATIVE STITCHES & HOBBYCRAFTS

6-8 February

With up to 150 exhibitors at Creative Stitches and Hobbycrafts in The Brighton Centre, you can enjoy a variety of lively workshops, demonstrations and talks, while finding a superb range of supplies for all your artistic pastimes. The show opens from 9.30am-5pm and tickets are priced at £3.80-6.20. For more info or to buy tickets, visit www.ichf.co.uk or call ☎ **01425 272711**

2

STITCH AND CREATIVE CRAFTS

6-8, 12-14, 26-28 February

This show is taking place across the UK in February. From the 6-8th it's at Manchester Central, then at the Centaur Centre in Cheltenham from the 12-14th, and at London's ExCel Exhibition Centre from the 26-28th. The show covers a range of crafts, including knitting and crochet. Tickets start at £4.50 (£6.50 for the London event). Visit www.stitchandcreativecrafts.co.uk or call ☎ **01822 614671** to order tickets.



3

PRETTY POCKETS, BEAUTIFUL BUTTONHOLES AND EXOTIC EDGINGS

7 February

In this workshop, learn how to create a number of pocket styles to complement any garment, plus pick up techniques for various buttonhole designs and practise fancy edgings, too! This workshop is led by Vikki Haffenden and is for intermediate knitters – you'll need to be competent at handling needles and working stocking stitch to attend. The course is held in Burwash, East Sussex and costs £65, which includes all practice materials. To book yourself a place on this fantastic workshop, go online to www.nickitrench.com, send an email to nicki@nickitrench.com or telephone on ☎ **01435 884288**



4

CRAFT4CRAFTERS

20-22 February

You'll find stacks of supplies and great ideas at this exciting exhibition in Telford's International Centre. Tickets are priced at £4-6, and the show opens from 10am-5pm on Friday and Saturday, and 10am-4pm on Sunday. In this issue, we have 10 pairs of tickets to give away to lucky *Knit Today* readers – turn to page 70 to enter! To order tickets or find out more about the show, visit www.craft4crafters.co.uk or call on ☎ **0117 9705006** for more information.

GET IN TOUCH

If you're holding a knitting class, exhibition, workshop or other special event, send us the details at least 12 weeks in advance and you could get a free listing here. Send your event details and photos to: **Out & About, Knit Today, 9th Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN** or email: knittoday@originpublishing.co.uk

5

MAKE IT

20-22 February

It's hoped that this Make It event will be even bigger and better than last year's, which boasted 120 exhibitors and 11,500 visitors! This year's show will be bursting with inspirational ideas for your knitting and crochet projects, as well as lots of things for a range of other crafts, too. It's open from 10am-5pm each day at Farnborough FIVE in Hampshire. Don't miss our ticket giveaway on page 70! To find out more or to order tickets, go online to www.make-it.org.uk or call on ☎ **0844 4771000**



7

BEGINNERS' CROCHET

21 February

Have you always wanted to learn to crochet, but never had someone to teach you? Come along and learn how to make the basic stitches such as chains, double crochet and trebles. You'll be taught how to crochet simple squares, crochet rounds, make a simple crochet flower and read a crochet pattern. The day is led by crochet expert Nicki Trench, and costs £65. Go online to www.nickitrench.com, email nicki@nickitrench.com or call ☎ **01435 884288** to find out more.



8

EMBELLISHMENTS AND DECORATIVE KNITTING

25 February

Led by Rowan Design Consultant Anne Makepeace, this idea-filled workshop will encourage you to customise and embellish your knitted projects. It's designed for knitters who can already knit and follow a basic pattern, and you'll be encouraged to experiment using the patterns provided to create knitted flowers, beads, buttons, sequins, frills and edgings. It runs from 10.30am-4.30pm at Kangaroo in South Chailey, East Sussex. The course costs £45, which includes materials, refreshments and lunch, plus a 10% discount on any purchases made on the day. Go online to www.kangaroo.uk.com or call ☎ **01273 400030** to book yourself on the workshop.

6

ARAN/CABLE KNITTING AND ENTRELAC

21 February

This workshop in Knutsford, Cheshire is aimed at knitters with average skills who want to add texture to their knitting projects. Aran or cable knitting is popular with fashionable knits, and entrelac is perfect for trendy bags and home accessories such as cushions. On the day, you'll hear a short history of Aran knitting, as well as learn how to read patterns and charts for cables and bobbles, and practise a number of other textured stitches. You'll also find out how to set up the triangles and pick up and knit entrelac. The workshop runs from 10am-4pm, costs £40 and includes refreshments and lunch at a local restaurant. You'll also get a 10% discount on all yarn bought on the day! For more details on this course, or to book yourself a place, call ☎ **01565 652035** or go online to www.fibreandclay.co.uk

10

FAIR ISLE FOR THE FAINT HEARTED!

28 February

In this one-day workshop, Becky Murray from Get Knitted will introduce Fair Isle knitting to you. You'll practise various knitting methods to help you achieve a perfect finish with your Fair Isle piece, and pick up tips on how to combine colours effectively. You'll be given the materials to start a mini project, which you can then finish at home. This workshop is suitable for beginners, runs from 10.30am-4.30pm (with an hour for lunch) and costs £40. To find out more or enrol, visit www.getknitted.com or call ☎ **0117 3005211**

9

DESIGN YOUR OWN KNITS PART II

27 February

You don't need to have completed part one of this course to enrol in part two. Debbie Abrahams leads Design Your Own Knits, suitable for knitters who can already knit and follow a basic knitting pattern, but who want to design their own garments and accessories. You'll be guided through the process of how to make your own drawing and graph up your design so it's ready to knit. Learn how to get the measurements for your design, convert them into stitches and rows, calculate how much yarn you'll need and write up your own knitting pattern. It runs from 10.30am-4.30pm (with an hour for lunch) and costs £40. Visit www.getknitted.com or call ☎ **0117 3005211** to book a place.

How to go beyond *stocking stitch* with Mary Hickmott



Learn how to take your knitting skills past stocking stitch in my masterclass this month – you'll be surprised how easy it is!

Mary Hickmott

Mary Hickmott is a top expert who has been creating fabulous knitted treasures all of her life. Mary, who knits every day, teaches knitting and embroidery and believes that knitting plays a huge part in people's happiness.

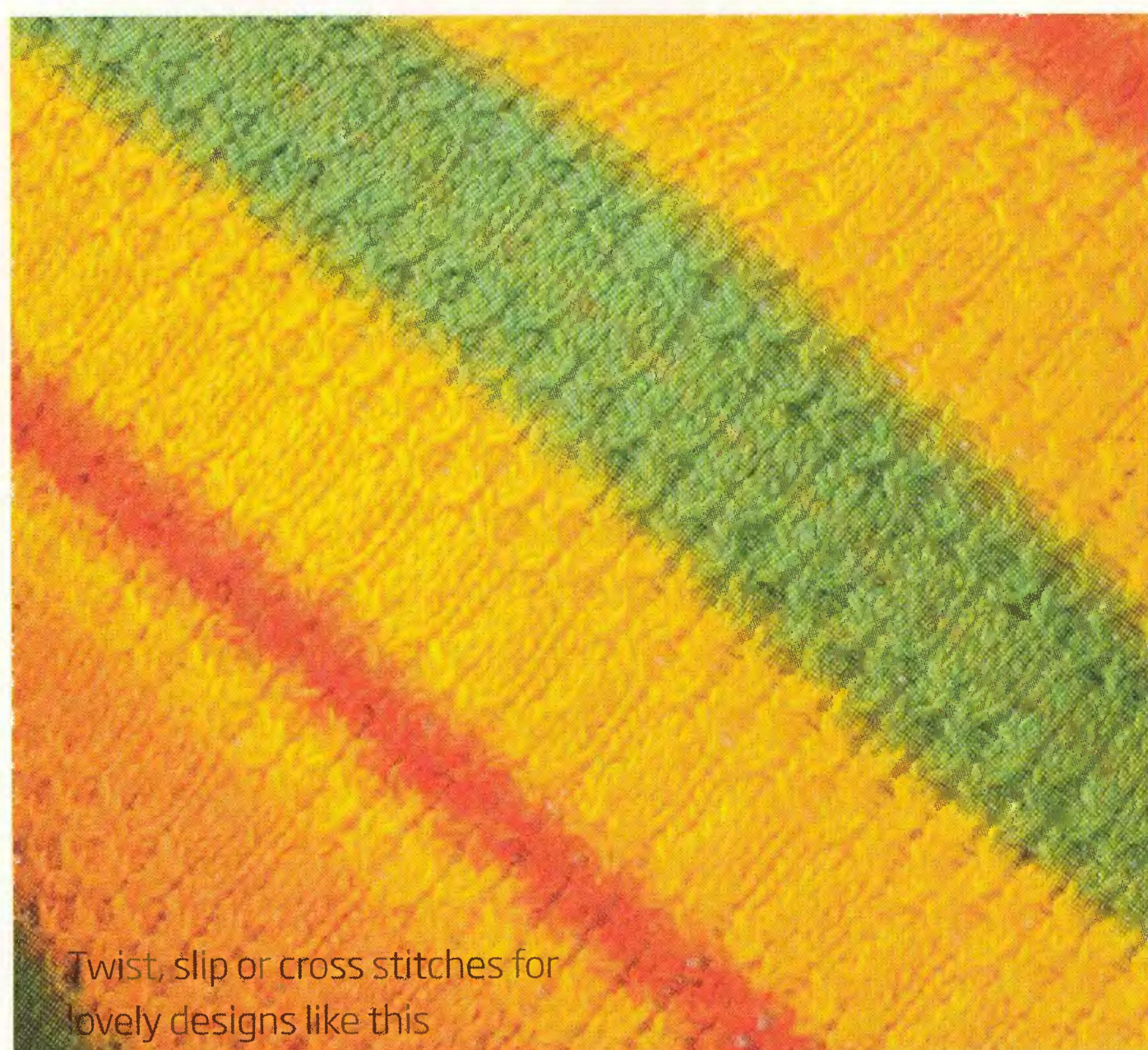
Every month we show you a **new technique.** Find out how to take your knitting skills beyond stocking stitch!



➔ turn over to get started

BEYOND STOCKING STITCH

Most of us learn stocking stitch very soon after we take up knitting. One row of knit stitches followed by a row of purl ones is soon part of our repertoire, and remains in use for many an item over the years. Its front surface (the knit side) is flat, and its reverse surface (the purl side) is knobbly. Pieces tend to curl over at the sides and to curl inwards at the top and bottom. To make them lie flat and behave, it is necessary to block them out or press them once the knitting is complete. Such are the properties of stocking stitch.



Twist, slip or cross stitches for lovely designs like this

Making slight changes

From this straightforward beginning can spring many a variation. To be a variation of stocking stitch, the fundamental knit rows and purl rows need to remain, but on either side (usually the knit rows) stitches can be twisted, slipped or crossed for an infinite number of patterns to form. In the examples that follow, you will see that all even numbered rows are purl ones and on the odd numbered rows no purl stitches are worked, only knit ones in differing forms. The changes in appearance to the knitted piece can be quite astounding, considering the minor changes being made!

Real changes

Certain factors do change as soon as you steer away from normal stocking stitch. The major one of these is tension. When working slipped stitches in a pattern – the first two samples shown – you will need to work a greater number of rows than for a normal stocking stitch tension. The number of stitches is likely to be the same. When working crossed stitches – the last two samples shown – both the number of stitches and rows in the tension will be affected and, in each case, you will need to work a greater number to gain the same size of tension square or garment piece. Lacy ones – the third sample shown – may stay similar to the original tension of a plain stocking stitch sample or may contract or expand depending on the openness of the stitch being worked. The answer in all instances is to work a tension sample. These always sound so boring to do, especially when you are longing to get on with the idea you have just thought up, but a few minutes spent working out just how you need to adjust a pattern can save a great deal of disappointment later on.

Slipped stitch patterns

Simple slip stitch

This pattern is so easy, and yet immediately adds a wonderful bit of style to a plain stocking stitch. The vertical ridges that form are subtle, but sufficiently sculptural to give an elegant touch. The pattern is basically a multiple of four stitches, but you may like to work two knit stitches on each side of a slipped stitch on a garment piece in order to be able to make a neat seam. Your stitch number would need to be a multiple of four stitches plus five, and the pattern has been written in this way.

Row 1: K2, *sl1, K3, rep from * to last 3 sts, sl1, K2.

Row 2: Purl.



Sample 1
Form neat, vertical
ridges by simply
slipping a stitch

Float stitch

This stitch is also a simple slip-stitch pattern, but gives something of the effect of a complicated rib one. It is flat in the same way as stocking stitch is flat, though does not have the elasticity of a rib, however. I think it makes a really good texture for jumpers and, as the layers of yarn pass over each other, a very warm one too. The floats are the strands of yarn that, in this instance, are brought forward to pass in front of the slipped stitches. To make a neat edge for a seam, you will need a multiple of three stitches plus one.

Row 1: *K1, yf, sl2, yb, rep from * to last st, K1.

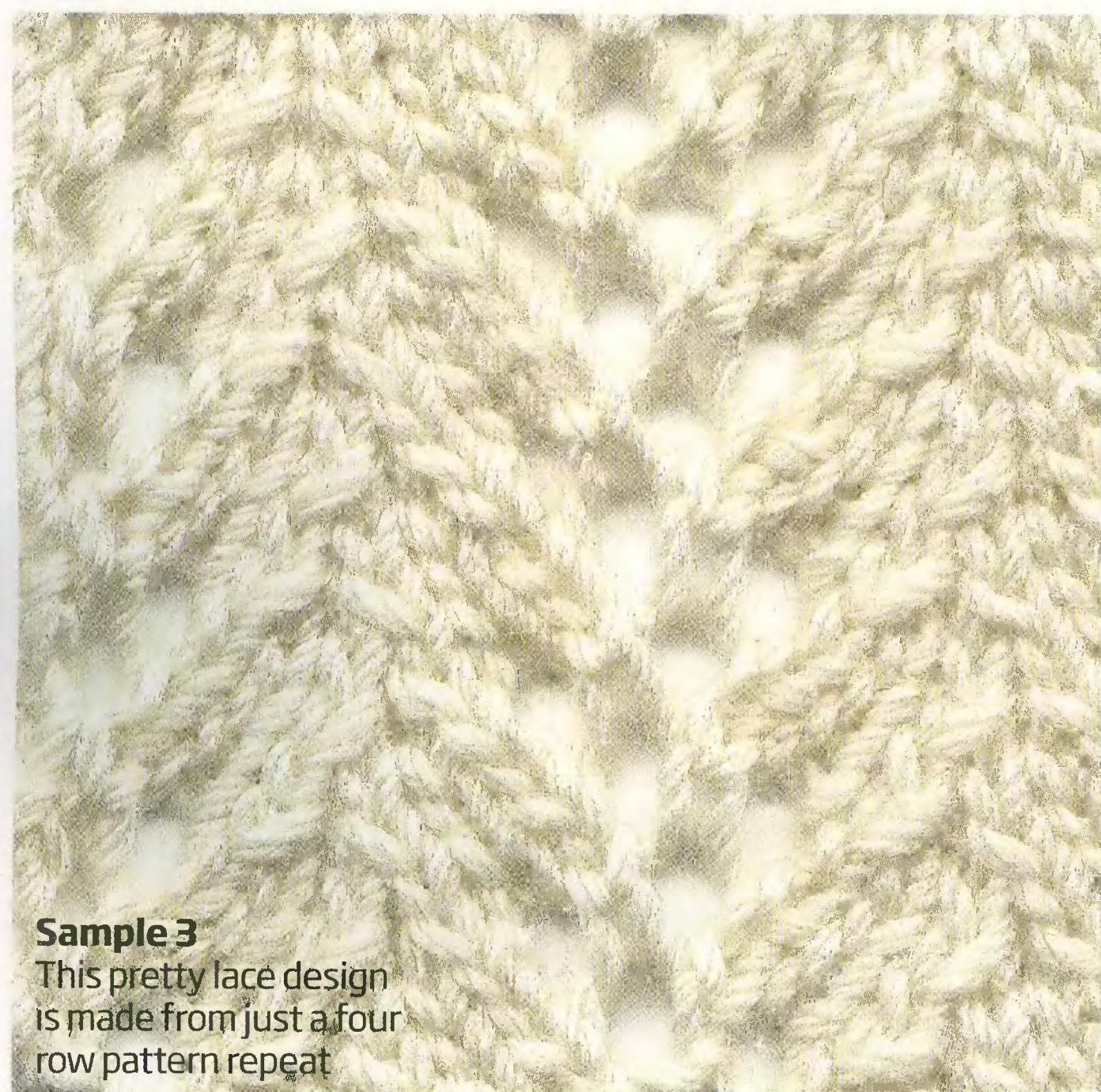
Row 2: Purl.



Sample 2
Carry your yarn in front of your work to form this intricate pattern

Lacy stitches

Very many lacy patterns are based on stocking stitch. In principle, the same number of decreases (worked by knitting stitches together) and increases (worked by yarn overs) are made, so that the number of stitches in use remains the same throughout. The even numbered rows are purl ones. Finding a good place to start and finish a pattern in order to be able to sew a neat seam is tricky, so whenever possible, work in the round for a jumper, or right the way around from front to back and around to the front again on two needles for a cardigan or jacket. In other words, try to avoid seams if you can.



Sample 3
This pretty lace design is made from just a four row pattern repeat

Vine lace stitch

This pretty lace pattern is typical of those based on stocking stitch. It produces what looks like a complex pattern, but takes only four rows to do so, and two of those are just purl ones. Working backwards and forwards on two needles, you will need a multiple of nine stitches plus two. Working in the round, you will need a multiple of nine stitches. The pattern is written as for the former of these, but it is easy to see how it is adjusted for the latter. If you do knit in the round, the purl row will, of course, become an all knit row.

Row 1: K1, *K1, yf, K2, sl1, K1, pssso, k2tog, K2, yf, rep from * to last st, K1.

Row 2: Purl.

Row 3: K1, *yf, K2, sl1, K1, pssso, k2tog, K2, yf, K1, rep from * to last st, K1.

Row 4: Purl.

ABBREVIATIONS

K	knit
k2tog	knit 2 sts together
P	purl
pssso	pass slipped stitch over
rep	repeat
sl1	slip a stitch by inserting the needle into it as if to purl, then slipping it to the right needle
st(s)	stitch(es)
yf	bring yarn forward between the needles
yb	take yarn back between the needles
sl2	slip two stitches by inserting the needle into them as if to purl, then slipping them to the right needle
yf	bring yarn forward between the needles
yb	take yarn back between the needles

ABBREVIATIONS

C6B	slip next 3 sts onto a cable needle and hold at the back of the work, K3, then K3 sts from the cable needle
C6F	slip next 3 sts onto a cable needle and hold at the front of the work, K3, then K3 sts from the cable needle
K	knit
P	purl
rep	repeat
st(s)	stitch(es)
Tw2l	pass needle behind the first stitch on the left needle and knit the second stitch, knit the first stitch and slip both stitches off the needle together
Tw2r	pass needle in front of first stitch on the left needle and knit the second stitch, knit the first stitch and slip both stitches off the needle together

Crossed stitches

By simply crossing stitches over each other, or as groups over other groups, wonderful undulating patterns can be made in stocking stitch. The swirls and chunky textures that can be obtained are quite surprising and exciting. The even numbered rows are still just purl stitches, and the odd number rows formed of knit stitches. If it sounds easy – well, so it is!

Shadow cable

I love the way the stitches appear to flow like a river in this pattern. In fact, having worked this small sample, I can't wait to use it for a jacket I have in mind. To work the pattern with a knit stitch each side to form a seam, you will need a multiple of twelve stitches plus two.

Row 1: Knit.

Row 2: Purl.

Row 3: K1, *C6F, K6, rep from * to last st, K1.

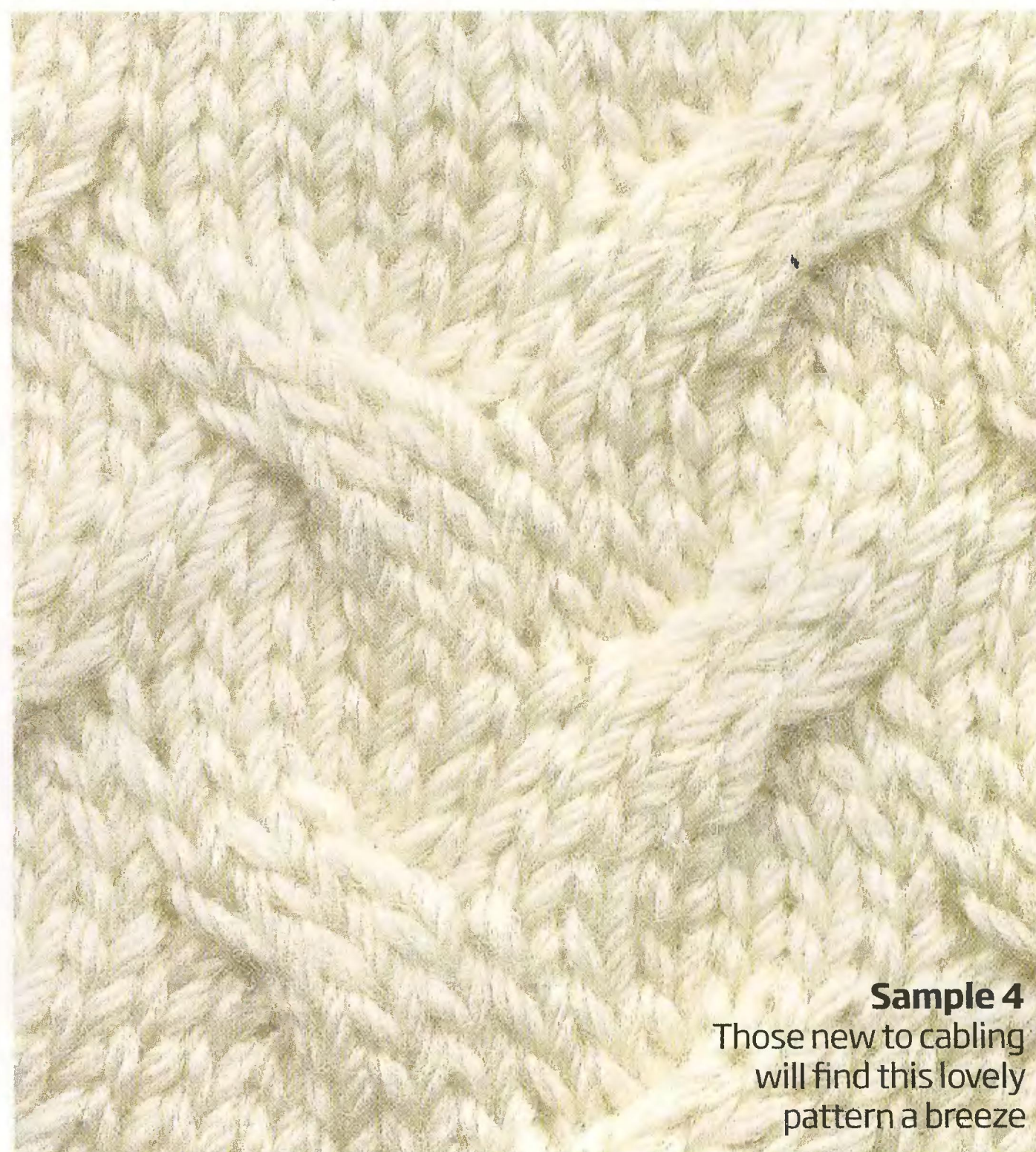
Row 4: Purl.

Row 5: Knit.

Row 6: Purl.

Row 7: K1, *K6, C6B, rep from * to last st, K1.

Row 8: Purl.



Sample 4
Those new to cabling will find this lovely pattern a breeze



Sample 5
This simple stitch creates a warm, double-layered fabric

Small honeycomb pattern

This is so warm! By twisting the stitches just this amount, the thickness of the fabric is doubled and the air trapped by the stitches makes it superbly insulating. Not only would it make a great stitch for an outdoor sweater, but it would also make a super waistcoat-style bodywarmer to go under a normal coat. The stitch does contract the stitches and the rows inwards, so more is needed of each of them to cover the same ground, as it were. This means some extra yarn too, of course, but it is worth it for the thermal properties alone. You will need a multiple of four stitches.

Row 1: *Tw2r, Tw2l, rep from * to end of row.

Row 2: Purl.

Row 3: *Tw2l, Tw2r, rep from * to end of row.

Row 4: Purl.

Diagonal cushion

This cushion uses the small honeycomb pattern and a slip stitch one in alternate blocks. Worked from one corner to the opposite one diagonally, increases (then decreases) are made at each end of three out of four rows. To obtain the tension for the stitch pattern, I worked a sample and, quite by chance, it turned out to be a tension that often occurs when using double knitting wool and plain stocking stitch on size 4mm needles. The yarn used here is more of an aran weight, and the needle size is 5.5mm. What it does mean though is that, if you wish, you can use the same design in plain stocking stitch to knit a cushion to the same dimensions. Just don't work the pattern stitches and do use 4mm needles and double knitting yarn.

Work two cushion pieces exactly the same. When the knitting is complete for each piece, pin each out on a padded board to 40cm square. Cover with wet cloths (cotton pillowcases are good) and leave to become quite damp. Remove the cloths and let the pieces dry naturally.

To sew up, start 10cm or 2in from one corner and work towards the corner using mattress stitch between the back and front pieces. Continue all the

way round until you have gone 10cm or 2in past the fourth corner. Insert the cushion pad, making sure it goes neatly into each corner, and continue across the opening with mattress stitch.

Cushion front and back (make two)

Cast on 2 sts.

Row 1: Knit.

Row 2: Purl.

Row 3: Kfb, kfb. (4 sts)

Row 4: Pbf, P2, pbf. (6 sts)

Row 5: Kfb, K1, sl2, K1, kfb. (8 sts)

Row 6: Purl.

Row 7: Kfb, K2, sl2, K2, kfb. (10 sts)

Row 8: Pbf, P8, pbf. (12 sts)

Row 9: Kfb, (sl2, K2), 2 times, sl2, kfb. (14 sts)

Row 10: Purl.

Row 11: Kfb, (Tw2l, Tw2r), 3 times, kfb. (16 sts)

Row 12: Pbf, P to last st, pbf. (18 sts)

Row 13: Kfb, (Tw2l, Tw2r), 4 times, kfb. (20 sts)

Row 14: Purl.

Row 15: Kfb, K1, (Tw2r, Tw2l), 4 times, K1, kfb. (22 sts)

Row 16: Pbf, P to last st, pbf. (24 sts)

Row 17: Kfb, K1, (Tw2r, Tw2l), 5 times, K1, kfb. (26 sts)

PATTERN DETAILS

YOU WILL NEED...

- ✓ 5.5mm (UK size 5) knitting needles
- ✓ 4 x 50g balls of Wendy Fusion yarn in Saffron, shade 154.
- ✓ 40cm or 15¾in square cushion pad.

ABBREVIATIONS

cm	centimetre(s)
in	inch(es)
K	knit
kfb	knit into front then into back of st
P	purl
pfb	purl into back and then into front of st
Tw2r	pass needle in front of first st on the left needle and knit the second st, knit the first st and slip both sts off the needle together
Tw2l	pass needle behind the first st on the left needle and knit the second st, knit the first st and slip both sts off the needle together
ssk	slip the next st to the right needle knitwise, slip the following st to the right needle knitwise, insert the left needle into the front of the two sts to place them in position so that you can knit into the back of them
p2tog	purl two sts together
rep	repeat
st(s)	stitch(es)



This bright cushion uses a honeycomb and slip stitch pattern combination

"For variations on stocking stitch, the fundamental knit and purl rows remain, but stitches can be twisted, slipped or crossed for an infinite number of patterns to form."

Mary Hickmott
Knitwear Designer

- Row 18:** Purl.
Row 19: Kfb, (Tw2r, Tw2l), 6 times, kfb. (28 sts)
Row 20: Pbf, P to last st, pbf. (30 sts)
Row 21: Kfb, (Tw2r, Tw2l), 7 times, kfb. (32 sts)
Row 22: Purl.
Row 23: Kfb, K2, (sl2, K2), 7 times, kfb. (34 sts)
Row 24: Pbf, P to last st, pbf. (36 sts)
Row 25: Kfb, (sl2, K2), 8 times, sl2, kfb. (38 sts)
Row 26: Purl.
Row 27: Kfb, K1, (sl2, K2), 8 times, sl2, K1, kfb. (40 sts)
Row 28: Pbf, P to last st, pbf. (42 sts)
Row 29: Kfb, (Tw2r, Tw2l), 10 times, kfb. (44 sts)
Row 30: Purl.
Row 31: Kfb, K1, (Tw2l, Tw2r), 10 times, K1, kfb. (46 sts)
Row 32: Pbf, P to last st, pbf. (48 sts)
Row 33: Kfb, K1, (Tw2l, Tw2r), 11 times, K1, kfb. (50 sts)
Row 34: Purl.
Row 35: Kfb, (Tw2l, Tw2r), 12 times, kfb. (52 sts)
Row 36: Pbf, P to last st, pbf. (54 sts)
Row 37: Kfb, (Tw2l, Tw2r), 13 times, kfb. (56 sts)
Row 38: Purl.
Row 39: Kfb, K1, (Tw2r, Tw2l), 13 times, K1, kfb. (58 sts)
Row 40: Pbf, P to last st, pbf. (60 sts)
Row 41: Kfb, (sl2, K2), 14 times, sl2, kfb. (62 sts)
Row 42: Purl.
Row 43: Kfb, K1, (sl2, K2), rep to last 4 sts, sl2, K1, kfb. (64 sts)
Row 44: Pbf, P to last st, pbf. (66 sts)
Row 45: Kfb, sl1, K2, (sl2, K2), rep to last 2 sts, sl1, kfb. (68 sts)
Row 46: Purl.
Row 47: K1fb, K1, (Tw2r, Tw2l), rep to last 2 sts, K1, kfb. (70 sts)
Row 48: Pbf, P to last st, pbf. (72 sts)
Row 49: Kfb, K1, (Tw2r, Tw2l), rep to last 2 sts, K1, kfb. (74 sts)
Row 50: Purl.
Row 51: Kfb, (Tw2r, Tw2l), rep to last st, kfb. (76 sts)
Row 52: Pbf, P to last st, Pbf. (78 sts)
Row 53: Kfb, (Tw2r, Tw2l), rep to last st, kfb. (80 sts)
Row 54: Purl.
Row 55: Kfb, K1, (Tw2l, Tw2r), rep to last 2 sts, K1, kfb. (82 sts)
Row 56: Pbf, P to last st, pbf. (84 sts)
Row 57: Kfb, K1, (Tw2l, Tw2r), rep to last 2 sts, K1, kfb. (86 sts)
Row 58: Purl.
Row 59: Kfb, K1, (sl2, K2), rep to last 4 sts, sl2, K1, kfb. (88 sts)
Row 60: Pbf, P to last st, pbf. (90 sts)
Row 61: Kfb, sl1, K2, (sl2, K2), rep to last 2 sts, sl1, kfb. (92 sts)
Row 62: Purl.
Row 63: Kfb, (sl2, K2), rep to last 3 sts, sl2, kfb. (94 sts)
Row 64: Pbf, P to last st, pbf. (96 sts)
Row 65: Kfb, K1, (Tw2l, Tw2r), rep to last 2 sts, K1, kfb. (98 sts)
Row 66: Purl.
Row 67: Kfb, (Tw2l, Tw2r), rep to last st, kfb. (100 sts)
Row 68: Pbf, P to last st, pbf. (102 sts)
Row 69: Kfb, (Tw2l, Tw2r), rep to last st, kfb. (104 sts)
Row 70: Purl.
Row 71: K2, (Tw2r, Tw2l), rep to last 2 sts, K2.
Row 72: P2tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog. (102 sts)
Row 73: Ssk, K1, (Tw2r, Tw2l) rep to last 3 sts, K1, k2tog. (100 sts)
Row 74: P2tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog. (98 sts)
Row 75: K1, Tw2l, (Tw2r, Tw2l), rep to last 3 sts, Tw2r, K1.
Row 76: P2tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog. 96 sts
Row 77: Ssk, K1, (sl2, K2), rep to last 5 sts, sl2, K1, k2tog. (94 sts)
Row 78: P2tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog. (92 sts)
Row 79: K1, (sl2, K2), rep to last 3 sts, sl2, K1.
Row 80: P2tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog. (90 sts)
Row 81: Ssk, k2, (sl2, K2), rep to last 2 sts, k2tog. (88 sts)
Row 82: P2tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog. (86 sts)
Row 83: K1, Tw2l, (Tw2r, Tw2l), rep to last 3 sts, Tw2r, K1.
Row 84: P2tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog. (84 sts)
Row 85: Ssk, Tw2l, (Tw2r, Tw2l), rep to last 4 sts, Tw2r, k2tog. (82 sts)
Row 86: P2tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog. (80 sts)
Row 87: K2, (Tw2l, Tw2r), rep to last 2 sts, K2.
Row 88: P2tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog. (78 sts)
Row 89: Ssk, K1, (Tw2l, Tw2r), rep to last 3 sts, K1, k2tog. (76 sts)
Row 90: P2tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog. (74 sts)
Row 91: K1, Tw2r, (Tw2l, Tw2r), rep to last 3 sts, Tw2l, K1.
Row 92: P2tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog. (72 sts)
Row 93: Ssk, Tw2r, (Tw2l, Tw2r), rep to last 4 sts, Tw2l, k2tog. (70 sts)
Row 94: P2tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog. (68 sts)
Row 95: K1, (sl2, K2), rep to last 3 sts, sl2, K1.
Row 96: P2tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog. (66 sts)
Row 97: Ssk, K2, (sl2, K2), rep to last 2 sts, k2tog. (64 sts)
Row 98: P2tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog. (62 sts)
Row 99: K2, (sl2, K2), rep to end.
Row 100: P2tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog. (60 sts)
Row 101: Ssk, Tw2r, (Tw2l, Tw2r), rep to last 4 sts, Tw2l, k2tog. (58 sts)
Row 102: P2tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog. (56 sts)
Row 103: K2, (Tw2r, Tw2l) rep to last 2 sts, K2.
Row 104: P2tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog. (54 sts)
Row 105: Ssk, K1, (Tw2r, Tw2l) rep to last 3 sts, K1, k2tog. (52 sts)

Row 106: P2tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog. (50 sts)
Row 107: K1, Tw2l, (Tw2r, Tw2l), rep to last 3 sts, Tw2r, K1.
Row 108: P2tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog. (48 sts)
Row 109: Ssk, Tw2l, (Tw2r, Tw2l), rep to last 4 sts, Tw2r, k2tog. (46 sts)
Row 110: P2tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog. (44 sts)
Row 111: K2, (Tw2l, Tw2r), rep to last 2 sts, K2.
Row 112: P2tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog. (42 sts)
Row 113: Ssk, K2, (sl2, K2), rep to last 2 sts, k2tog. (40 sts)
Row 114: P2tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog. (38 sts)
Row 115: K2, (sl2, K2), rep to end.
Row 116: P2tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog. (36 sts)
Row 117: Ssk, sl1, K2, (sl2, K2), rep to last 3 sts, sl1, k2tog. (34 sts)
Row 118: P2tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog. (32 sts)
Row 119: K2, (Tw2l, Tw2r), rep to last 2 sts, K2.
Row 120: P2tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog. (30 sts)
Row 121: Ssk, K1, (Tw2l, Tw2r), rep to last 3 sts, K1, k2tog. (28 sts)
Row 122: P2tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog. (26 sts)
Row 123: K1, Tw2r, (Tw2l, Tw2r), rep to last 3 sts, Tw2l, K1.
Row 124: P2tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog. (24 sts)

Row 125: Ssk, Tw2r, (Tw2l, Tw2r), rep to last 4 sts, Tw2l, k2tog. (22 sts)
Row 126: P2tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog. (20 sts)
Row 127: K2, (Tw2r, Tw2l), rep to last 2 sts, K2.
Row 128: P2tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog. (18 sts)
Row 129: Ssk, K1, (Tw2r, Tw2l), rep to last 3 sts, K1, k2tog. (16 sts)
Row 130: P2tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog. (14 sts)
Row 131: K2, (sl2, K2), rep to end.
Row 132: P2tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog. (12 sts)
Row 133: Ssk, sl1, K2, sl2, K2, sl1, k2tog. (10 sts)
Row 134: P2tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog. (8 sts)
Row 135: K3, sl2, K3.
Row 136: P2tog, P to last 2 sts, p2tog. (6 sts)
Row 137: Ssk, K2, k2tog. (4 sts)
Row 138: P2tog, twice. (2 sts)
Row 139: Knit.
 Cast off in purl.

toptip

This pattern works best with variegated yarn, as the stripes you're knitting can show in different colours

This pattern makes up a diamond-shaped piece, so the finished cushion has dramatic diagonal stripes



Best buys

You'll want to get your hands on all of our favourite new products for February

Must-buy

Find the needles you need at a glance – it couldn't be easier with these Daisy Colour-Coded Needles by Crystal Palace. They're made from a strong, lightweight plastic resin that bends slightly in the smaller sizes. The tip and cap are one colour, and the body is another, and the colour combinations are different with each needle size. The join between the tip and the body of the needle is so smooth that your stitches will glide straight over it, with no problems.

Log on to www.westcoastknittingsupplies.com to see the range, or call ☎ 01928 732186 to place an order



Beat the credit crunch

Everyone loves a bargain, and we know you'll struggle to resist the special offers at Abakhan Fabrics. How about buy-one-get-one-free on a range of Sirdar yarns? Choose from Frenzy (for dramatic projects), Fizz (for textured garments), Bigga (for chunky creations), Funky Fur (for eyelash-effect knits) and Illusion (for shimmering, multicoloured styles). Check out the deals at www.abakhan-onlineshop.co.uk and while you're there, why not sign up to receive information on future special offers too?

To order and to see more of the special-offer products, pay a visit to www.abakhan-onlineshop.co.uk



Turn to
page 70, for
our pattern and
yarn giveaway!



Sock kits

If you've got the sock bug (and let's face it, who hasn't?) you'll appreciate this sock kit from Regia. It contains two 50g balls of Regia 4-ply Color self-patterning yarn, a set of five 2.5mm double-ended needles and a how-to guide. The yarn is made from 75% wool and 25% polyamide, and is breathable, machine washable, hard wearing and great fun to knit with! The kit costs £9.49.

Visit www.purplelindacrafts.co.uk to order



Heart warmer

Warm your loved one's heart this Valentine's Day with a hot water bottle cover, knitted especially for him. This sweet design is knitted in Patons Shadow Tweed, which is easy to work with and gives the cover its interesting colour effect. Buy the Hot Water Bottle Cover Knit Kit (ref 0131546), which includes yarn, instructions and needles, for £9.99.

Visit www.candh.co.uk to order



Knit a masterpiece

Everyone can knit a masterpiece – it's easy when you use the self-patterning yarns from Artesano. You'll soon see that even the simplest of designs is transformed into something really special, as you knit away and watch the pattern come to life. There is a range of different yarns to choose from, but two of our favourites are Hummingbird DK in Sunbird (shade E839), which costs £13.95 for a 150g/300m hank, and 4-ply in Lovebird (shade E859), which is £4.45 for a 50g/184m ball. Visit the website to see them for yourself.

Visit www.artesanoyarns.co.uk or call ☎ 0118 9503350 for stockists



Beautiful brooches

Ensure that your knitted sweaters, felted bags or crocheted hats look the business by embellishing them with one of these gorgeous brooches from Westcoast Knitting Supplies. You could even use one as a fastening on a pretty cardigan – the perfect way to dress up a special outfit. The yellow leaf costs £2.29, the butterfly £2.89, diamond shape £7.99 and pink leaf £11.99.

Visit www.westcoastknittingsupplies.com or call ☎ 01928 732186 to order



Make a statement

Accessorise your next knitted bag with one of these striking bag handles by Prym – Kim Natural Bamboo Bag Handles 101. They're beautifully finished to show off their own natural lustre, and they'll bring an air of elegance to your finished projects. They cost £6.25 for a pair and measure 15.5x13cm, or 6x5in. You'll also need some metal loop clasps for fixing, which are sold for £2.50 for a set of four.

Visit www.sewinspiring.co.uk or call ☎ 01273 401237 to order

Try knitting a
Fair Isle
pattern

Fair Isle footwear



Designer Rita Taylor is fascinated by the way different effects can be achieved by working stitches in different ways, and enjoys creating items that are fun and unique

BY *Rita Taylor*

Keep your feet toasty on a chilly winter's day with these super warm woollen socks, knitted with a simple Fair Isle pattern around the top

Do you often look at a knitting pattern and immediately think of a friend or family member who it would be perfect for? These gorgeous socks will make great gifts for family and friends, but make sure you treat yourself to a pair as well. Your feet will thank you for the extra warmth and style on those cold winter evenings!

Knit to fit

Fair Isle newcomers will find this a good project to start with, as there's only one row of the intricate, pattern. Rita has designed the socks especially to show off this Fair Isle motif, as they're mostly knitted in stocking stitch using a much more subtle colour. A simple knit 1, purl 1 rib edging around the top will keep them from falling down around your ankles.

The Fair Isle stripe is knitted with the rest of the sock inside-out which may seem a little odd at first, but it actually folds over the top of the sock as a decorative little cuff. This helps to give the sock extra support there, as well as keeping more warmth in.

As you knit your socks, remember that you can adjust the length of the foot and leg as much as you'd like, so you can guarantee a perfect fit. If you're feeling particularly ambitious, why not create an attractive pair of knee high socks to wear with a skirt, or simply to keep handy for an extra-cold day?

Not what it seems

If you're not already familiar with Jamieson & Smith's yarns, this is the perfect time to give them a try. Jumper Yarn is 100% pure Shetland wool, and is ideal for using with Fair Isle patterns. Although it's a 2ply yarn, it knits as the equivalent of a 4ply weight yarn. There's a huge variety of shades available in the range, so you can knit a second pair of socks with other colours for a completely different look.

SAVE
10%
see p36

YARN

Jamieson &
Smith 2ply
Jumper Yarn

Content:
100% pure new
wool

Weight/Length:
25g/115m

Washing:
Hand wash
RRP: £1.65



➔ turn over to start knitting



Transform plain socks
by adding a Fair Isle
patterned border

PATTERN
DETAILSYOU
WILL
NEED...

- ✓ 2 x 25g balls of Jamieson and Smith 2ply Jumper Yarn in shade 202
- ✓ 1x 25g balls of Jamieson and Smith 2ply Jumper Yarn in shades 91, 66, 47 and 32
- ✓ 2.75mm (UK size 12) double pointed knitting needles
- ✓ 3.25mm (UK size 10) double pointed knitting needles

tension

Yarn used knits as 4ply to this tension:

24sts and 32rows to 10cm or 4in over st st

Size

Width around leg is 22cm or 8¾in. Length of foot is variable.

ABBREVIATIONS

cm	centimetre(s)
in	inch(es)
K	knit
k2tog	knit two together
P	purl
p2tog	purl two together
rep	repeat
sl	slip stitch
ssk	slip 1, slip 1, replace them together on left needle and knit 2 together
st(s)	stitches
st st	stocking stitch

START
HERE!

With set of 3.25mm double pointed needles and shade 202, **cast on** 54sts and spread them evenly over 3 needles. Join into a ring and knit for 12cm or 4¾in, or length required.

Shape heel

Next row: K13 from first needle, turn, P13 then P14 from next needle.

Divide remaining stitches between 2 needles and leave for instep.

Work 30 rows st st on 27 heel stitches, slipping first st of every row.

Turn heel

Row 1: Sl1, K16, ssk, turn.

Row 2: Sl1, P7, p2tog, turn.

Row 3: Sl1, K8, ssk, turn.

Row 4: Sl1, P9, p2tog, turn.

Row 5: Sl1, K10, ssk, turn.

Row 6: Sl1, P11, p2tog, turn.

Row 7: Sl1, K12, ssk, turn.

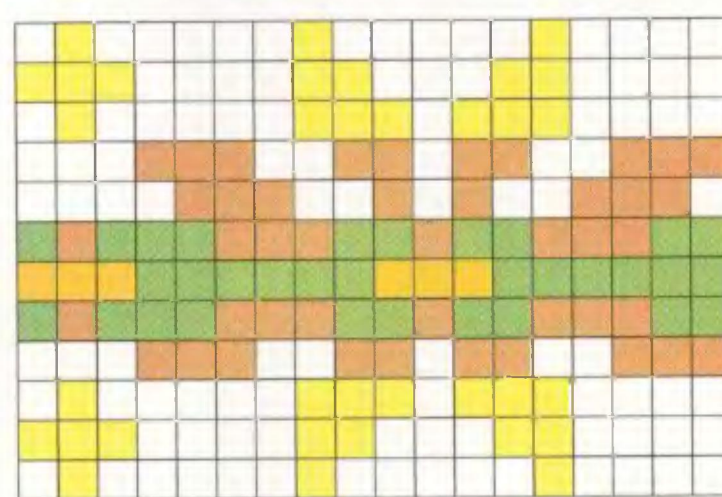
Row 8: Sl1, P13, p2tog, turn.

Row 9: Sl1, K14, ssk, turn.

Row 10: Sl1, P15, p2tog, turn.

Shape instep

K17, pick up and K15 along side of heel, K across instep stitches, pick up and K15 along other side of heel, then K9 stitches from first needle onto same needle.

FAIR ISLE
COLOUR KEY

- 66 Yellow
- 32 Peach
- 91 Gold
- 47 Green



1st round: Knit

2nd round: K to last 3 stitches of first needle, k2tog, K1, K second needle, K1, ssk, K to end of third needle.

Rep these 2 rounds to 54sts, and continue on these stitches until foot measures 5cm or 2in less than finished length from back of heel.

Shape toe

1st needle: K to last 3 stitches, k2tog, K1.

2nd needle: K1, ssk, K to last 3 stitches, k2tog, K1.

3rd needle: K1, ssk, K to end.

Next round: Knit 1 round.

Rep these 2 rounds until 22sts remain. Cast them off together, or graft them.

Turn sock inside out. Using set of 2.75mm needles and starting at centre back, pick up and P54 stitches around top edge of sock. Work 27 rounds in K1, P1 rib.

Change to 3.25mm needles.

Knit 2 rounds, then work 12 rows of the Fair Isle chart 3 times around sock.

Knit 2 rounds.

Work K1, P1 rib for 5 rounds.

Cast off in rib.

Fasten off, and darn in ends.

READER OFFER!

SAVE
10%

Knit Today readers can purchase all of the yarn listed to make these socks for the special price of £11.40 from Jamieson & Smith, which includes p&p within the UK. That's a saving of 10% off the normal price! Visit www.shetland-wool-brokers.zetnet.co.uk for more information about Jamieson & Smith yarns, and call ☎ 01595 693579 to order the yarn for these socks. Make sure you mention that you found the pattern in *Knit Today*!



We meet Vikki Haffenden

In the heart of trendy Brighton, teacher Vikki Haffenden is quietly heading up a knit revolution. Nicki Trench explains...

From very humble beginnings growing up on a campsite, Vikki Haffenden is now bringing about something of a revolution in knitting, inspiring the next generation of knitters to reach new heights. Vikki teaches knitted textiles to students at the University of Brighton, where some of her protégés have gone on to work for famous design houses such as Dior, Marc Jacobs and Julien MacDonald.

Like most good teachers, her approach is very hands-on, she says. "I encourage

students to work with the yarn and shapes rather than theory and paperwork." She continues, "I'm also an advocate for using natural fibres. I just think that if you're going to invest hours of your precious time knitting something, use a natural fibre because that way, it will last forever."

Vikki's approach has achieved some impressive, if unusual results. "There is an increased interest in handknitting among the students – even students from other courses come to learn handknitting at the college," she says. "We've had students who've knitted

objects such as lampshades using silicone that doesn't melt under heat, bags using recycled plastic, and knitting with wire."

When she's not inspiring the next generation of knitters and designers, Vikki is studying for a PhD in knitting. Her thesis is on how to fit knitwear to the body shape of larger-sized women – she explains that, in her experience, it's very hard for women who are not the standard shape and size to buy the style of knitwear that they want. Vikki says, "Through my doctorate research, I'm looking to influence the current knitwear industry by looking at ways for knitwear to be more comfortable and fit better, and for commercial knitwear to be more wearer-friendly."

Indeed, recent research by SizeUK showed that the average woman in the UK is now a size 16 on at least one area of her body. "And yet the retail world is slow to take this up, instead selling ill-fitting garments in inappropriate colours and fabrics for most women," says Vikki.

Basic beginnings

So where did this enthusiastic yet unusual approach to knitting come from? Vikki was brought up on the beautiful Dorset coast, between Bridport and Lyme Regis: "My parents ran a campsite and we lived in a wooden bungalow with no mains water or sewage and only a well for water. People used to love coming to us for their holiday because it was so basic."

"My parents bred pigs, goats and dogs, and my mother went through a phase of spinning using poodle wool. There weren't any other children around, except my brother, so I used the animals for experimentation when fitting



Vikki's approach to knitting has inspired her students to achieve great success

my garments – I would always dress up the baby animals in knits,” she laughs.

Even from an early age, Vikki showed a keen interest in knitting. She proudly explains, “As a child, I won a silver *Blue Peter* badge for my knitwear design.” Both Vikki’s mother and grandmother were also enthusiastic and talented knitters. “My mother taught me to handknit when I was five or six years old,” Vikki remembers.

But, it was her grandmother who taught her patience, Vikki says. “When she turned 60, she took herself to bed, which was then installed in the living room. She sat there in pastel colours, looking pretty, talking to her budgerigar, drinking the occasional sherry out of a pretty glass and knitting, while my long-suffering grandfather nursed her.”

As so often in previous generations, the female members of the household would knit for pin money. “My mother used to knit to feed the family – she would knit for some well-known London stores. She made handknitted suits, and then she was given a knitting machine and moved on to machine knitted garments,” she says.

Life after camping

After leaving school (and the campsite), Vikki completed a Fine Art foundation course at Exeter University, followed by a degree in Fashion Textile Design at Brighton Poly, specialising in knitted textiles. Once Vikki left university, she worked as a designer in the knitwear industry and freelanced for companies such as Paul Smith, Esprit and the Arcadia Group (owner of Topshop).

In the 1980s, Vikki went on to teach machine knitting at degree level and in the



Vikki's enthusiasm for knitting has led to charity, community and research projects

adult education sector, before moving on to work full-time at Brighton University. During this time, Vikki also had fun featuring in a couple of episodes of TV’s *Woolcraft* programme with Una Stubbs.

More recently, in conjunction with Rooster Yarns, Vikki has acted as a consultant for colour and design on the exquisite Merino/Alpaca yarns. She also teaches workshops in advanced finishing techniques, designing and altering knitting patterns, Fair Isle and many other specialised techniques.

Back in Brighton, Vikki lives with her husband, three sons and one cat, enjoying a life of luxury in a house with central heating and running water! Although, every summer, she goes back to basics by organising The Big Knit In at the University of Brighton – it’s a free community event where everyone is welcome to join in and share knitting and crochet skills. The annual event coincides with the degree exhibitions of the Faculty of Art there, and provides an excellent opportunity to view the graduate show.

The Big Knit In is fun for all the family, including knitting on giant needles, giant French knitting, making charity squares and other items for various good causes. Vikki says, “It’s fun having lots of different groups of men and women all coming together for the day. Some of the students volunteer as Knit Nurses and go around helping beginners – it’s

“ As a child, I won a silver *Blue Peter* badge for my knitwear

”

a real inspiration to see people of all ages helping each other.”

Vikki’s fresh approach recently won her one of the University of Brighton’s Excellence in Facilitating/Empowering Learning Awards, which celebrate outstanding contributions to student learning. Her creative talents certainly deserve recognition, and it takes a special quality to have an inspirational effect on students. We hope that Vikki will continue to inspire past, present and future knitters!

FIND OUT MORE!

- Knit To Fit (knittofit.co.uk) – the online home of Vikki’s knit research
- Nicki Trench’s shop (nickitrench.com), where Vikki holds knit and crochet workshops (or see page 20)
- The Big Knit In (knitin.co.uk) – Vikki’s annual Brighton knitting event



Vikki measures up a mannequin for one of her designs

Knit a
lacy dress
from soft, warm
Alpaca wool

Graceful in green



Tina Barrett loves designing with natural, organic yarns, and aims to create patterns that knitters will be able to knit and make up as easily and painlessly as possible

BY *Tina Barrett*

Knit yourself the most warm and comfortable dress you'll own, with a gorgeous lace edging and a design that will flatter your curves

The idea of knitted dresses can sometimes come across as chunky, unflattering and old-fashioned. Tina Barrett's gorgeous garment is anything but that, with a classic design that's made to flatter your curves without being too form-fitting. It's wonderfully versatile as well – wear smart shoes and jewellery with it for work and special events, or pair it with more casual accessories and boots for meeting up with friends for lunch or a cuppa.

Feminine style

It's the simple elegance of the dress's style that makes it such a lovely, feminine piece. The wide V-neck collar keeps the top of the

dress looking simple, attracting more attention to the lovely lace designs, knitted in a four-row pattern repeat, along the sleeves and hem. The ribbon tied above the waist gives definition to the dress without acting like a belt, and falls at a becoming place for most women. There is shaping around the waist as well, to help show off your curves, and the straight lines of the skirt makes it unrestrictive while not too bulky around your hips. All in all, it's the ideal design, and you're sure to fall in love with it as you knit it together.

In the clouds

The crowning touch to this dress is the fact that it's knitted in Artesano Inca Cloud, a luxurious pure alpaca yarn. It will feel magnificently soft against your skin, and you can choose from 20 colours. If you'd like to stick with the Teal we've used to knit our dress, you can get a 10% discount from Crafty Yarn. Turn the page for more details. As always, send us a photo of you in your lovely new knitted dress and we'll send you a knitting prize!

YARN

Artesano Inca Cloud

Content:
100% pure alpaca yarn

Weight/Length:
50g/120m

Washing:
Hand wash
RRP: £3.99

Crafty Yarns,
☎ 0118 9431144,
www.crafty-yarn.co.uk



➔ turn over to start knitting



Sophistication and style combine to create this lovely knitted dress for you to create this month

Shape neck and shoulders

Row 1: Patt 25 (27: 29: 30: 32) sts, turn. Leave rem sts on holder.

Row 2: Working on these sts, cast off 7 (7: 8: 8: 8) sts, patt to end. 18 (20: 21: 22: 24) sts.

Row 3: Cast off 6 (7: 7: 8: 8) sts, patt to end. 12 (13: 14: 14: 16) sts.

Row 4: Cast off 6 (7: 7: 7: 8) sts.

Row 5: Cast off rem 6 (6: 7: 7: 8) sts.

Place centre 40 sts onto a stitch holder.

Rejoin yarn to second side, pattern to end. Work Rows 1-5 again.

FRONT

Work as for Back to **.

When armhole meas 2.5cm or 1in, divide for neck as follows:

Left front

Row 1: Patt 44 (46: 48: 49: 51) sts, turn. Leave rem stitches on holder.

Work on these stitches as follows.

Row 2: Purl.

Row 3: K to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1.

Rep last 2 rows until 25 (27: 29: 30: 32) sts.

Work even in st st until armhole meas 19 (19: 20.5: 20.5: 21.5)cm or 7½ (7½: 8: 8: 8½)in ending on a WS row.

Shape shoulder

Row 1: K25 (27: 29: 30: 32) sts, turn.

Row 2: Working on these sts, cast off 7 (7: 8: 8: 8) sts, patt to end 18 (20: 21: 22: 24) sts.

Row 3: Cast off 6 (7: 7: 8: 8) sts, patt to end. 12 (13: 14: 14: 16) sts.

Row 4: Cast off 6 (7: 7: 7: 8) sts.

Row 5: Cast off rem 6 (6: 7: 7: 8) sts.

Second side

Slip centre 2 sts onto a stitch holder and patt across rem 44 (46: 48: 49: 51) sts of second side.

Work dec as follows:

Row 1: Purl.

Row 2: K1, ssk, K to end.

Finish to match first side, reversing shoulder shapings.

SLEEVES

Using 4mm needles, **cast on** 74 (80: 92: 92: 92) sts.



The ribbon above the waist gives a flattering definition to the shape of the dress

ABBREVIATIONS

beg	begin(ning)
cm	centimetre(s)
dec	decrease
in	inch(es)
yf	yarn forward
inc	increase
K	knit
k2tog	knit two together
P	purl
meas	measures
patt	pattern
rem	remaining
rep	repeat
RS	right side
ssk	slip 1, slip 1, knit 1
st(s)	stitch(es)
st st	stocking stitch
WS	wrong side



"This dress is designed to flatter all shapes, and the feather and fan pattern on the cuffs and hem are nice and easy to those knitters not used to lace knitting"

Tina Barrett,
Knitwear designer

Work 2 rows in garter stitch.

Work in Feather and Fan stitch for 25.5cm or 10in, ending on WS row.

Shape upper arm

Change to stocking stitch and beg with a K row, dec 12 (14: 20: 10: 10) sts evenly across next row 62 (66: 72: 82: 82) sts.

Next row: Purl.

Inc 1 st at each end of next and every foll 6th row until 82 (88: 92: 94: 98) sts. Work even until sleeve meas 46cm or 18in from cast on edge.

Shape armhole

Cast off 5 sts at beg of next 2 rows 72 (78: 82: 84: 88) sts.

Dec 1 st at each end of next and every following alternate rows until 52 (56: 58: 54: 56) sts.

And then on every row until 18 sts rem.

Cast off.

Making up

Darn in loose yarn ends.

Block and press according to ball band.

Join right shoulder seam.

Neck

Using 3.25mm needles and with RS facing, pick up and knit 40 (40: 44: 44: 46) sts down left front vee, K across the 2 sts from holder, pick up and knit 40 (40: 44: 44: 46) sts up right front vee and 40 sts across back of neck. 122 (122: 130: 130: 134) sts.

Next row: Knit, knitting both 2 stitches together at centre of front vee.

Cast off knitwise.

Join second shoulder seam.

Pin and sew sleeve heads into armhole.

Join sleeve and side seams.

Thread ribbon through eyelets. Tie in a floppy bow and trim to required length.



The lace design is knitted from a simple four-row pattern repeat

READER OFFER!

SAVE 10%

Save money by knitting this lovely dress in the same colour we've knitted ours in! *Knit Today* readers can have a special 10% discount off the price of the Artesano Inca Cloud yarn needed to knit the dress in Teal, from Crafty Yarns. Just quote code KNITCLOUD when ordering online at www.crafty-yarn.co.uk, or you can call ☎ 0118 9431144 and mention the same code.



Crafty Yarn





Janice Broadstock
is here to answer all your
questions on different
weights of yarn.

knittoday Q&A

get great advice from our knitting experts

DOUBLE TROUBLE

Q I'm new to knitting, and recently went to a craft shop where they had lots of yarn labelled DK. I've only knitted a few scarves so far with fancy, frilly yarns from kits and wanted something more standard so I could practice. Are all yarns labelled DK the same thing? Tracey Williams, Staffordshire.

A DK stands for double knitting, which refers to the thickness of the yarn. You'll find that every yarn manufacturer produces a DK yarn - it's a spinning industry standard that's been around for many decades. A DK yarn should generally knit to a tension of 22 stitches to 30 rows on a 4mm needle over a 10cm square - however, different fibre contents can alter this by a stitch or row. When you move on to garment patterns, just check that the DK yarn you use matches the required tension.



DK yarns can be used for a wide variety of projects

FROM AMERICA

Q I've bought a couple of American knitting books packed with mouth watering patterns, but there are a couple I want to knit that have yarns called worsted and sport. The brands aren't available in the UK, so I can't see how thick they actually are. Nicola Ford, Crawley

A There are some fabulous books and patterns from the US, and they occasionally use yarns we can get hold of, as they love Rowan and Colinette. However, they do have a lot of choice and many of the brands are difficult to track down. Translating yarn types can be tricky, but there are some tips that can help. For example, in the US, worsted falls between what we call a DK or aran yarn in the UK, and sport is a tad finer than a standard DK. Look at the tension and the needle size used to come up with a fairly safe bet on which yarn to choose.

3 top tips on yarn substitution



For a garment, it's very important to work a tension square when using a different yarn than what's suggested in the pattern, to ensure you've found a suitable substitution.



When choosing an alternative yarn for a project, bear in mind the type of fabric you want to replicate. Fibres like cotton and silk don't have the same elastic properties as wool.



Look at the yardage on the ball bands when using a different yarn. The weight may be the same, eg 50g, but the length of yarn in the ball can differ and will affect the number of balls required.

Yarn Standards

STANDARDS & GUIDELINES FOR CROCHET AND KNITTING

Standard Yarn Weight System

Categories of yarn, gauge range and recommended needle and hook

Yarn Weight Symbol & Category Name	1 Fingering	2 Sport	3 DK, Light Worsted	4 Worsted	5 Bulky
Type of Yarn in Category	Fingering	Sport, Baby	DK, Light Worsted	Worsted	Bulky
Knit Gauge Range* in Stockinette Stitch to 4 inches	33-40 sts	27-32 sts	23-26 sts	21-24 sts	18-22 sts
Recommended Needle Size Range	1.5-2.25 mm	2.25-3.25 mm	3.25-4.5 mm	4.5-5.5 mm	5.5-6.5 mm
Recommended Hook in Metric	1.6-3.4	2.25-3.5	3.5-4.5	4.5-5.5	5.5-6.5

Visit www.yarnstandards.com to compare yarn weights



Joanna Benner is an expert who has helped many people learn to knit. Read her handy hints on **adding buttons to knitwear**.

- ★ Making buttonholes
- ★ Different kinds of buttons
- ★ Shank buttons

This is great for measuring the spacing between buttonholes



PERFECT BUTTONHOLES

Q Knitting any garments with buttonholes has been a big no-no so far, but I've seen a cardigan pattern that I'd like to knit. I'm worried about trying buttonholes, though.

Katherine Thomas, Cardiff

A The best thing to do is cast on 20 stitches, knit a few rows and then follow the instructions in your pattern for the buttonhole. If you make a mistake, knit a few more rows and try again! Keep going until you've got it – it won't take long. Bring this swatch when you choose your button, and find a button to fit. A handy tool is the Hemline Sewing Gauge (ref 8492) – you can easily measure your button, mark the width on the gauge, then measure your buttonhole against this. It's from www.sewandso.co.uk or call ☎ 01453 889988 for £1.60.

KNITTED AND KNOTTED!

Q I am a beginner at knitting and haven't mastered the art of cabling or fancy stitches, so my finished projects look a bit plain. Can you give me some advice on how I can give them a bit of an edge?

Barbara Milette, St Ives

A If it is a jumper you are knitting, you can always knit a simple eyelet row just above the ribbing. Then, when making up the jumper, just thread pretty ribbon through the eyelets and stitch at the sides. For a cardigan, choose some jazzy handmade buttons that complement your yarn – an irregular shaped plain button looks great on a patterned garment, as does a patterned button on a plain garment. Alternatively, you can buy some of Leah Sutton's fantastic buttons (£14.99 for two) that she makes by knitting and knotting. Made from cashmere and other fibres, they're 4.5x4.5cm or 1¾x1¾in, and are available from www.leahsutton.com If you are feeling especially creative and would like to have a go at making them yourself, you can download a pattern from the site for £3.80.



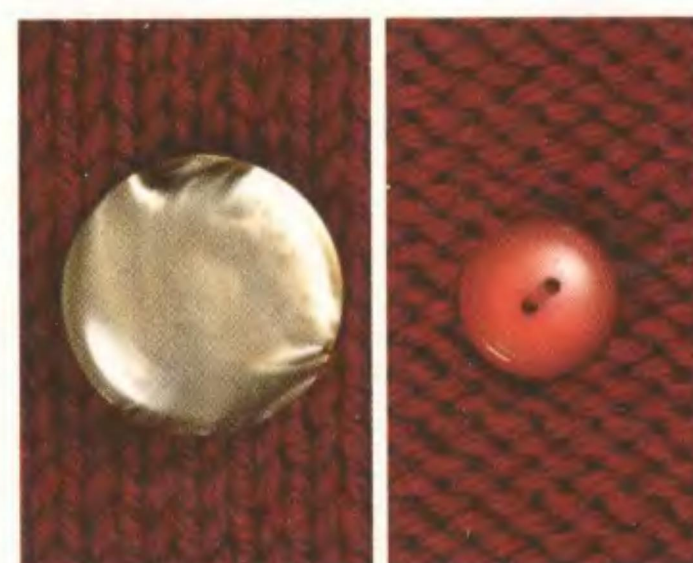
Add a designer touch with handmade buttons

SHANKED BUTTONS

Q I like sewing big chunky buttons on my cardigans and jackets, but after a while the button seems to stretch the wool and then hangs down. Is there a way to stop this?

Rosa Miles, Oxford

A The more you do up and undo the button, the more this happens! A shank button is the best type of button for knitwear, backed by a flat button. When stitching the shank button, sew the back button on at the same time. The back button should be clear plastic or a colour that matches the main button.



If the yarn you have knitted with is too thick to sew through your buttons, use embroidery thread that matches your garment

3 top tips

1

Always make sure you put washable buttons

on washable knitwear. Otherwise you'll have to remove them before washing your garment and then have to sew them on again every time you launder!

Washable on washable!



2

A quick way to stabilize a shanked button is to put a small safety pin through the knitwear, from the back of the item, and the button and then fasten the pin.

3

If your machine-washable garment has fancy buttons,

turn it inside out before putting it in the machine to prevent buttons from getting chipped or damaged.



Mary Hickmott
is here to help you with
your queries about
**cabling stitches,
cable needles and
cable patterns.**

IS IT DIFFICULT?

Q I really like the look of cabled patterns and they are so very fashionable just now, but are they difficult to work?

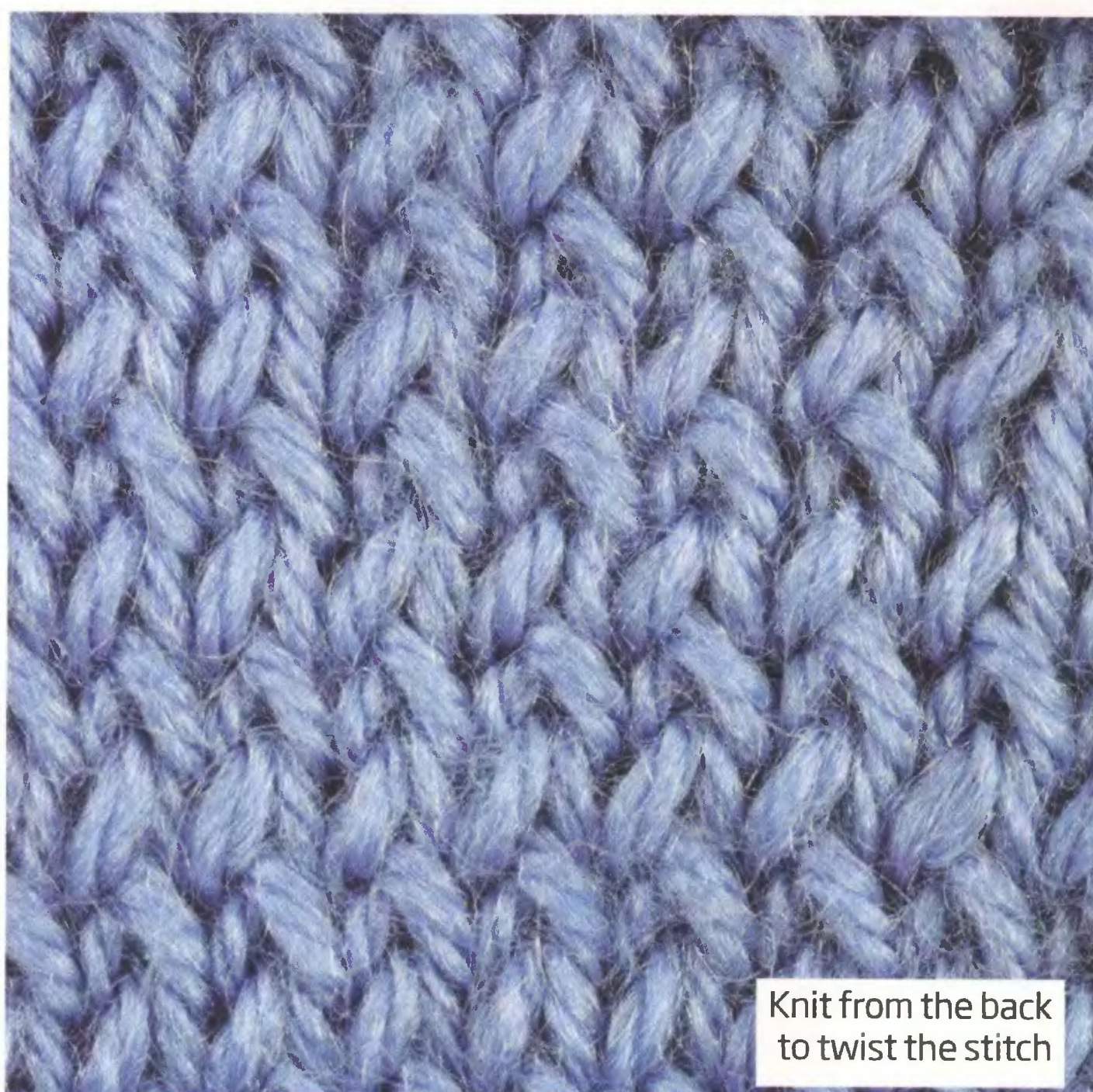
Leigh Jackson, Aberystwyth

A No, cabled patterns are not difficult at all, although just to begin with you feel all fingers and thumbs, as you so often do when trying something new! Take some double knitting yarn and a cable needle, find a good knitting stitch book – *Vogue Knitting Stitchionary volume 2, Cables* or *The Knitting Stitch Manual* by Lesley Stanfield are particularly good – and work a few sample stitches. By following the instructions, you will very quickly get the idea of what it is you are achieving, and using a cable needle will soon become second nature.



Cabled patterns produce lovely 3D twisted effects

- ★ How to start cabling
- ★ Cable stitches and twisted stitches
- ★ Cable needles



Knit from the back to twist the stitch

TWISTED VERSUS CABLED?

Q Please can you tell me what the difference is between twisted stitches and cabled ones?

Melanie Crawford, Berkeley

A Certainly, Melanie – twisted stitches do not involve the use of a cable needle. Instead, the stitches are knitted in a different order from normal, sometimes approaching from the back as well as from the front. In cabling, some stitches are placed onto the cable needle to be held apart so that they can be incorporated later, thus forming the twisting over of the stitches. Often, twisted stitches and cabled ones will be classed together in stitch books as they can produce some similar effects.

knittoday Q&A

TWO IN A PACK

Q Cable needles seem to come in packs of two, with one needle finer than the other. Which is used for which weights of yarn? I've also seen needles with kinks in them – what are they for?
Rita Peters, Macclesfield

A The finer needle is used for double knitting and finer weights of yarn, and the thicker one for aran weights and thicker yarns. The needles with kinks in them are simply a variation on the straight ones, which some people find helpful as the stitches are less likely to slip off. The main consideration is that the stitches placed on the needle should be sufficiently secure so the needle does not slip out.

Cable needles are sold in pairs



3 top tips on cabling

1

For very fine or very thick yarn, a double-pointed needle may hold stitches better than a cable needle. The needle doesn't have to be the same size as the main ones you're using, but a close match will work best.

2

With the front of the work facing you, cable stitches held to the front will give a slant to the left. Stitches held to the back will pass behind those next worked and the slant will be to the right.

3

Remember that a cable design, even just a panel or two, will affect tension, especially widthwise. A knitting pattern can be adjusted by adding a couple of stitches or so at each end if a panel of cabling is added. Or, work a swatch, measure the tension and adjust the pattern as needed.



Nicki Trench
has written books
on both knitting and
crochet – read her
advice about **changing
colours in crochet.**

- ★ Adding in new colours
- ★ Preventing loose stitches
- ★ Joining yarn at the end of a row

knittoday Q&A

3 top tips

JOINING COLOURS

Q I'm crocheting squares using four different colours – how do I join in the colours at the end of each round?

Sandra MacMillan, Glasgow

A Changing from one ball or colour to the next is very simple. The new wool is introduced on the last loop of the stitch, just before the stitch that will be made in the new colour. Pick up the new colour and begin the process of making a stitch as follows:

Double crochet stitch: insert hook into next stitch to be worked, yarn round hook, pull yarn through stitch, drop old yarn and pick up new yarn and pull new yarn through loops. Continue using the new ball/colour.

Treble stitch: yarn round hook, insert hook into the next stitch to be worked, yarn round hook, pull yarn through stitch, yarn round hook, pull yarn through two loops on hook. Drop old ball/colour, with new colour/ball, yarn round hook and pull new colour through last two loops on hook. Continue working with new colour/ball.

Crochet in multicolour with Nicki's helpful advice

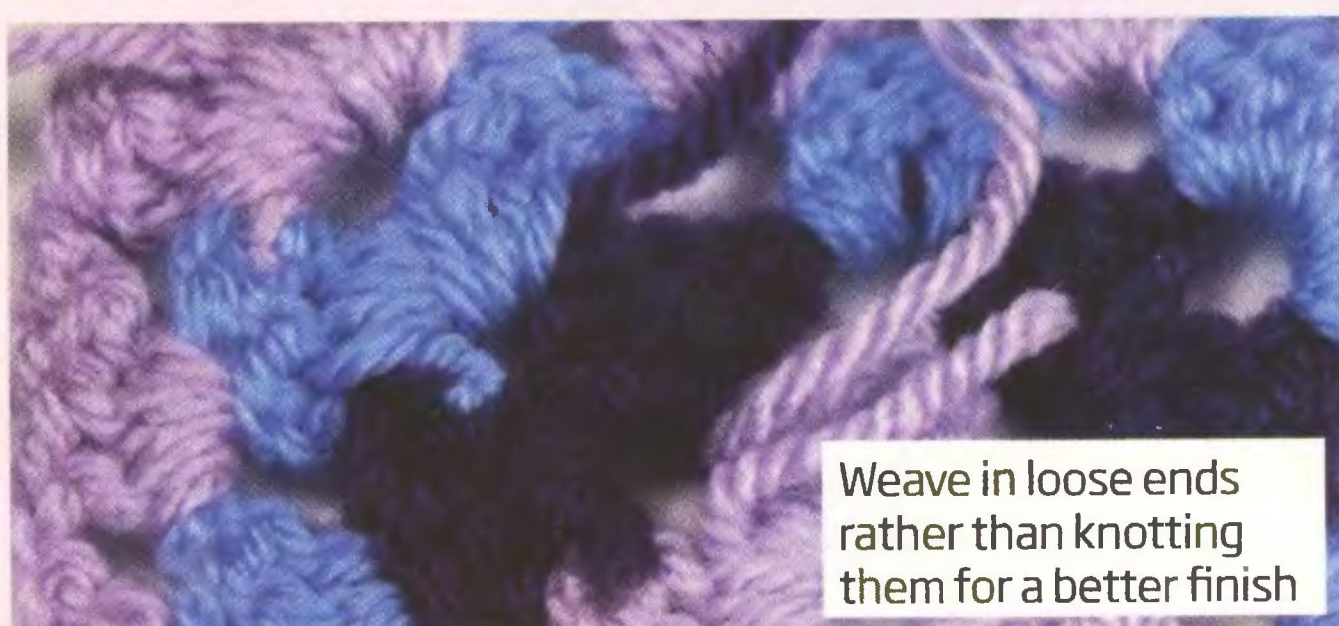


HOW DO I STOP LOOSE STITCHES?

Q My stitches are very loose where I've changed colour, how do I stop these from coming undone?

Katie Robertson, Manchester

A It's important not to tie the two ends into a knot – this will make your work look bulky and the knots always tend to come undone, so you'll end up with holes all over your work. Twist the yarns around each other to keep them in place while working on your crochet. The stitches will hold themselves together once you have continued your work for two or three stitches along. When you have finished your square or your piece, thread the tails with a wool sewing needle and weave the ends in thoroughly at the back of the work, following the line of the stitch and the colours.



Weave in loose ends rather than knotting them for a better finish

COMING UNDONE

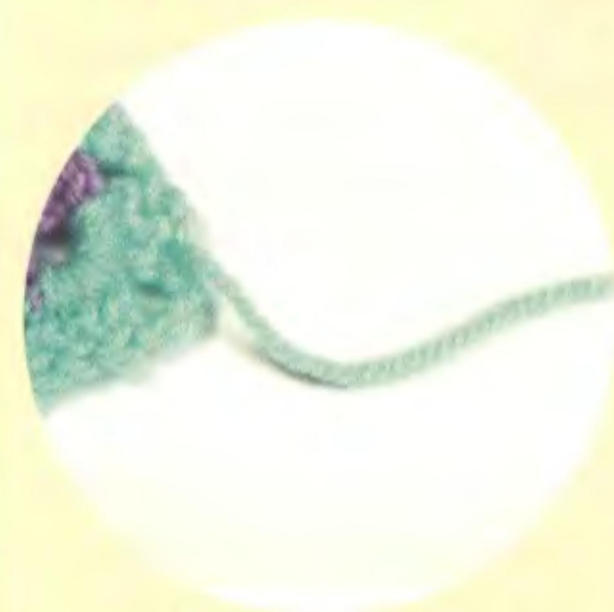
Q How do I join in a new ball of wool without all of my previous stitches coming undone?

Rachael Collins, Darlington

A Use exactly the same method I explained to Sandra, above. If you are crocheting in rows and need to join in yarn at the end of the row, join in new yarn on the turning chains, so that the turning chains are made using the new colour or ball.



1



Leave a long tail when joining in new yarn, at least 4in, so you have plenty of yarn for sewing in the ends.

2

Sew in one end at a time – don't sew over an end that has already been sewn in, or you will have a bulky look to the back of your work.

3

If you are joining in new yarn into a chain space, put your hook through the space, loop the new yarn and hold it at the back of your work. Then, pull the loop of new yarn through to the front, leaving the tail at the back.



Diane Hollands
has had fun surfing the internet to bring you the very best websites and online stores

Sponsored by

craftbubble.com
The UK's favourite crafting community

We'd love to hear what you think. Tell us about your favourite knitting websites email: knittoday@originpublishing.co.uk



Craft Bubble www.craftbubble.com

Want to be part of a brand new social networking site that's just for crafters? Then, visit this site today! When you register, you'll create your own profile or 'craft bubble', upload and share projects in your own gallery, make new friends, create and join groups, blog, and share tips and advice. You can do as little or as much as you like, and internet newbies need not fear – it's easy to do, we promise! We think this will soon become the world's biggest social networking site for craft enthusiasts. It's free to join, and when you do, you'll get three free craft projects to download. So, what have you got to lose?

✓ **Best for:** Meeting crafters

Websites

Get online and visit this month's top sites for supplies, meeting crafters and taking a well-earned break



Sirdar www.sirdar.co.uk

It can be hard to see the subtle coloured designs in modern yarns, even when you're in a shop with the yarn in your hand. Visualising a knitted item from a few balls of yarn can be difficult, but that's where Sirdar's new website comes in. It shows all of their yarns, with a selection of design leaflets for each one, so that you can not only see all the colours available but also exactly how they look when knitted up – what a clever idea! In addition, there's a huge stockist locator tool on the site, featuring around 1,000 retailers in the UK and Ireland. Sirdar will also be adding new projects every single month, so it's well worth checking back to this resourceful site regularly.

✓ **Best for:** Choosing yarns



This is Knit www.thisisknit.ie

This welcoming site is run by mother and daughter, alongside two shops in Dublin. It stocks a wide range of yarn brands, including Debbie Bliss, Louisa Harding, Rowan, Craftspun, Noro and Lorna's Laces, and has patterns for sale as well. Our favourite part of the site is the gallery, full of photos and information on customers' projects – they're a talented bunch! There's also a This is Knit blog to keep you up-to-date with the latest knitting news. If you're in the area, go along to the Saturday morning knitting classes for beginners and intermediates, or join in on Thursday night at This is Knit's Blackrock Shop from 7pm for Knit Night – just bring along your latest knitting project!

✓ **Best for:** Friendly service



Travel Quest www.travel-quest.co.uk/knitting.htm

What could be better than a relaxing holiday away in comfortable surroundings with fellow knitters? It may sound like a dream, but luckily for us, it's 100% real! When we looked on this site there were a wide selection of holidays to choose from, including trips to Blackpool, rural Wales and even as far away as America. Some of the breaks offer full-day and half-day workshops, full board, evening talks and trips to knitting centres. If you're travelling alone, Travel Quest assures you'll be made to feel right at home on one of its trips. So, why not log on to the site and see if any of the holidays tickle your fancy?

✓ **Best for:** Knitting retreats

Learn how to
make loops
for a knitted
edging

Soft and snuggly



Rita Taylor began designing by creating clothes for her dolls and teddy bears, finding ways of working garments that would not involve much sewing up!

BY *Rita Taylor*

Knit your little girl a comfy bolero-style cardigan with a frilly, looped edging – our pattern gives sizing instructions for ages 2-11!

Knitting items for little girls always means an enjoyable project, as it gives you a chance to work with bright colours, fun patterns and new designs. We know your little princess will love Rita Taylor's cardigan, with a bolero style that's an easy, comfortable fit. In addition, it has a frilled edge that makes it a fun, fashionable piece she can feel really special in, and the style is also suitable for winter, spring or autumn. The pattern includes sizing for ages 2 to 11 – perfect if she grows out of the size you've knitted and is begging for another!

design an extra touch that makes it stand out from most patterns. It's created by making a series of loops, an easy stitch to learn if you don't already know how, and you'll quickly get the hang of it as you go along. Interestingly, you'll find that the opposite side of the looped edge sections has a pretty moss stitch effect, so you won't need to worry about an untidy look if either side of the cardigan flaps open.

Comfy cashmerino

Debbie Bliss's Cashmerino blend yarn is a good mix to use when knitting children's clothes, as it doesn't have the scratchy quality that can sometimes be found with pure wool. Mums will be glad to know that the finished jacket is easy to care for, as Cashmerino is machine washable at an environmentally-friendly 30°, so you'll save both time and energy! If your little girl prefers other colours to pink and purple, there's a good choice of 26 gorgeous DK shades available for you to pick her two favourites from. If she's got more than that, you may just need to knit two versions!

No-fuss frills

The frilly edging on this cardigan doesn't look knitted at all, which gives the



YARN

Debbie Bliss
Cashmerino DK

Content:

55% Merino wool,
33% Microfibre,
12% Cashmere

Weight/Length:
50g/110m

Washing:
Machine wash
30°

RRP: £4.45

Designer Yarns,
☎ 01535 664222

➔ turn over to start knitting



Give your little girl a special treat
this month with our cute cardigan

PATTERN
DETAILSYOU
WILL
NEED...

- ✓ 3 (3: 4: 4: 4: 5) 50g balls of Debbie Bliss Cashmerino DK in Pink (shade 27) – M
- ✓ 2 (2: 3: 3: 3: 4) 50g balls of Debbie Bliss Cashmerino DK in contrast colour, Lilac (shade 32) – C
- ✓ 3.75mm (UK size 9) knitting needles
- ✓ 4mm (UK size 8) knitting needles
- ✓ 3.75mm (UK size 9) circular needle

tension

Yarn used knits as DK to the following tension:

22 sts and 30 rows to 10cm or 4in square over st st using 4mm (UK size 8) needles.

START
HERE!

BACK

With 4mm needles and M, **cast on** 29 (35: 31: 37: 33: 39: 35) sts.

Next row: Purl.

Starting with a K row, cont in st st.

Cast on 5 sts at beg of next 8 (8: 10: 10: 12: 12: 14) rows. 69 (75: 81: 87: 93: 99: 105) sts.

Cont straight until back measures 11 (14: 17: 20: 23: 26: 29)cm or 4¼ (5½: 6¾: 8: 9: 10¼: 11½)in from cast on edge, ending with a P row.

Shape raglan armholes

Cast off 4 (4: 4: 5: 5: 5: 6) sts at beg of next 2 rows. 61 (67: 73: 77: 83: 89: 93) sts.

Next row: K1, skpo, K to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1.

Next row: P1, p2tog, P to last 3 sts, p2tog tbl, P1.

Rep the last 2 rows once more. 53 (59: 65: 69: 75: 81: 85) sts.

Next row: K1, skpo, K to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1.

Next row: Purl.

Rep the last 2 rows until 21 (23: 25: 25: 27: 29: 29) sts rem.

Cast off.

LEFT FRONT

With 4mm needles and M **cast on** 5 (5: 5: 6: 6: 6: 7) sts.

Cont in st st.

Next row: Knit.

Next row: Cast on 2 sts, P to end.

Next row: K to end.

Rep the last 2 rows 9 (10: 11: 12: 13: 14: 15) times more. 25 (27: 29: 32: 34: 36: 39) sts.

Cont in st st until side seam measures the same as back side seam, ending with a wrong side row.



Shape raglan armhole

Next row: Cast off 4 (4: 4: 5: 5: 5: 6) sts at beg of next row. 21 (23: 25: 27: 29: 31: 33) sts.

Next row: Purl.

Next row: K1, skpo, K to end.

Next row: P to last 3 sts, p2tog tbl, P1.

Rep the last 2 rows once more. 17 (19: 21: 23: 25: 27: 29) sts.

Next row: K1, skpo, K to end.

Next row: P to end.

Rep the last 2 rows until 2 sts rem.

Next row: P2.

Next row: K2tog and fasten off.

Cast off.

RIGHT FRONT

With 4mm needles and M **cast on** 5 (5: 5: 6: 6: 6: 7) sts.

Cont in st st.

SIZING GUIDE

		2-3	4-5	5-6	6-7	8-9	9-10	10-11
ACTUAL CHEST SIZE	in	24	26	28	30	32½	34½	37
	cm	61	66	71	77	83	88	94
LENGTH TO SHOULDER	in	9¾	11¼	13	14½	16	17¾	21¼
	cm	25	29	33	37	41	45	49
SLEEVE LENGTH	in	7	8	9	10	10¾	11½	12½
	cm	18	20	23	25	27	29	31

Work 2 rows.

Next row: Cast on 2 sts, K to end.

Next row: P to end.

Rep the last 2 rows 9 (10: 11: 12: 13: 14: 15) times more. 25 (27: 29: 32: 34: 36: 39) sts.

Cont in st st until side seam measures the same as back side seam, ending with a right side row.

Shape raglan armhole

Next row: Cast off 4 (4: 4: 5: 5: 5: 6) sts at beg of next row. 21 (23: 25: 27: 29: 31: 33) sts.

Next row: K to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1.

Next row: P1, p2tog, P to end.

Rep the last 2 rows once more. 17 (19: 21: 23: 25: 27: 29) sts.

Next row: K to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1.

Next row: P to end.

Rep the last 2 rows until 2 sts rem.

Next row: P2.

K2tog and fasten off.

Cast off.

SLEEVES

With 4mm needles and M, **cast on** 43 (45: 47: 49: 51: 53: 55) sts.

Starting with a K row, cont in st st.

Work 2 (4: 6: 6: 10: 12: 14) rows.

Next row: K3, M1, K to last 3 sts, M1, K3.

Work 5 rows.

Rep the last 6 rows 6 (6: 6: 6: 7: 7: 8) times more and the inc row again. 59 (61: 63: 65: 69: 71: 75) sts.

Cont straight until sleeve measures 16 (18: 21: 23: 25: 27: 29)cm or 6¼ (7: 8: 9: 10: 10¾: 11½) in from cast on edge, ending with a P row.

ABBREVIATIONS

cm	centimetre(s)
cont	continue
K	knit
in	inch(es)
inc	increase
st(s)	stitch(es)
p2tog	purl two together
k2tog	knit two together
M1	make one stitch
ML	make loop: K1 keeping st on left needle, bring yarn forward, pass yarn over left thumb to make a loop. Bring yarn back and knit this st again, slipping the st off the needle. Bring yarn forward and over the needle, then pass the 2 sts just worked over the made st
P	purl
rem	remain
skpo	slip 1, knit 1, pass slipped stitch over
st st	stocking stitch
tbl	through back loop



While this can be worn as a cardigan, the longer length in the back makes it suitable as a jacket, too

toptip

Knit the loop edging using a variegated yarn for a really colourful and fun effect!

HOW TO... MAKE A LOOP

1



Begin by knitting one stitch, but don't drop the original stitch on the left needle, as you normally would when knitting.

2



Bring the yarn in between your knitting needles, from the back to the front. The yarn will look like it's separating the two stitches you're working with.

3



Next, loop the yarn around your thumb, and bring the yarn back in between the needles to the other side of your work.

4



Knit the stitch off the left needle. There should now be two stitches on your right needle, with a loop in between.

5



Bring the yarn forward again, over the needle. Lastly, pass the two stitches just worked over the newest stitch, in order to secure the loop. You've now got a finished loop stitch!

Shape sleeve top

Cast off 4 (4: 4: 4: 5: 5: 6) sts at beg of next 2 rows. 51 (53: 55: 57: 59: 61: 63) sts.

Sizes 2-3yrs and 4-5yrs only:

Next row: K1, skpo, K to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1.

Next row: P1, p2tog, P to last 3 sts, p2tog tbl, P1. 47(49) sts.

Rep the last 2 rows once more. 43(45) sts.

All other sizes:

Next row: K1, skpo, K to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1.

Next row: Purl.

Next row: Knit.

Next row: P to end. (53: 55: 57: 59: 61) sts.

Rep the last 4 rows (0: 1: 3: 4: 6) times more. (53: 53: 51: 51: 49) sts.

All sizes:

Next row: K1, skpo, K to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1.

Next row: P to end.

Rep the last 2 rows until 11 (11: 13: 13: 15: 15: 17) sts rem.

Cast off.

EDGINGS

Lower back edging

With right side facing, using 3.75mm needles and C, pick up and knit 79 (85: 93: 99: 107: 115: 121) sts along cast on edge.

** 1st row K to end.

Row 2: * K1, ML; rep from * to last 2 sts, K2.

Row 3: Knit.

Row 4: K2, * ML, K1; rep from * to end.

Rep the last 4 rows 1 (1: 1: 2: 2: 2: 2) times more.

Cast off. **

Back neck edging

With right side facing, using 3.75mm needles and C, pick up and knit 20 (22: 24: 24: 26: 28: 28) sts along cast off edge.

Work as given for Lower Back Edging from ** to **.

Lower sleeve edging

With right side facing, using 3.75mm needles and C, pick up and knit 42 (44: 46: 48: 50: 52: 54) sts along cast on edge.

Work as given for Lower Back Edging from ** to **.

Sleeve neck edging

With right side facing using 3.75mm needles and C, pick up and knit 10 (10: 12: 12: 14: 14: 16)

sts along cast off edge.

Work as given for Lower Back Edging from ** to **.

Right front edging

With right side facing, using 3.75mm circular needle and C, pick up and knit 30 (32: 35: 38: 41: 43: 47) sts along cast on edge, then 36 (42: 49: 56: 63: 69: 75) sts along straight edge. 66 (74: 84: 94: 104: 112: 122) sts.

Work as given for Lower Back Edging from ** to **.

Left front edging

With right side facing, using 3.75mm circular needle and C, pick up and knit 36 (42: 49: 56: 63: 69: 75) sts along straight edge then 30 (32: 35: 38: 41: 43: 47) sts along cast on edge. 66 (74: 84: 94: 104: 112: 122) sts.

Work as given for Lower Back Edging from ** to **.

Making up

Join raglan and edging seams. Join side and sleeve seams.



The jacket is knitted in plain stocking stitch to really show off the looped edging

PUZZLES



WIN!
£50
OF PRIZES!

Take a quick break from your knitting to enjoy our fun puzzles.

Send in the answer to our crossword and you could win a prize!

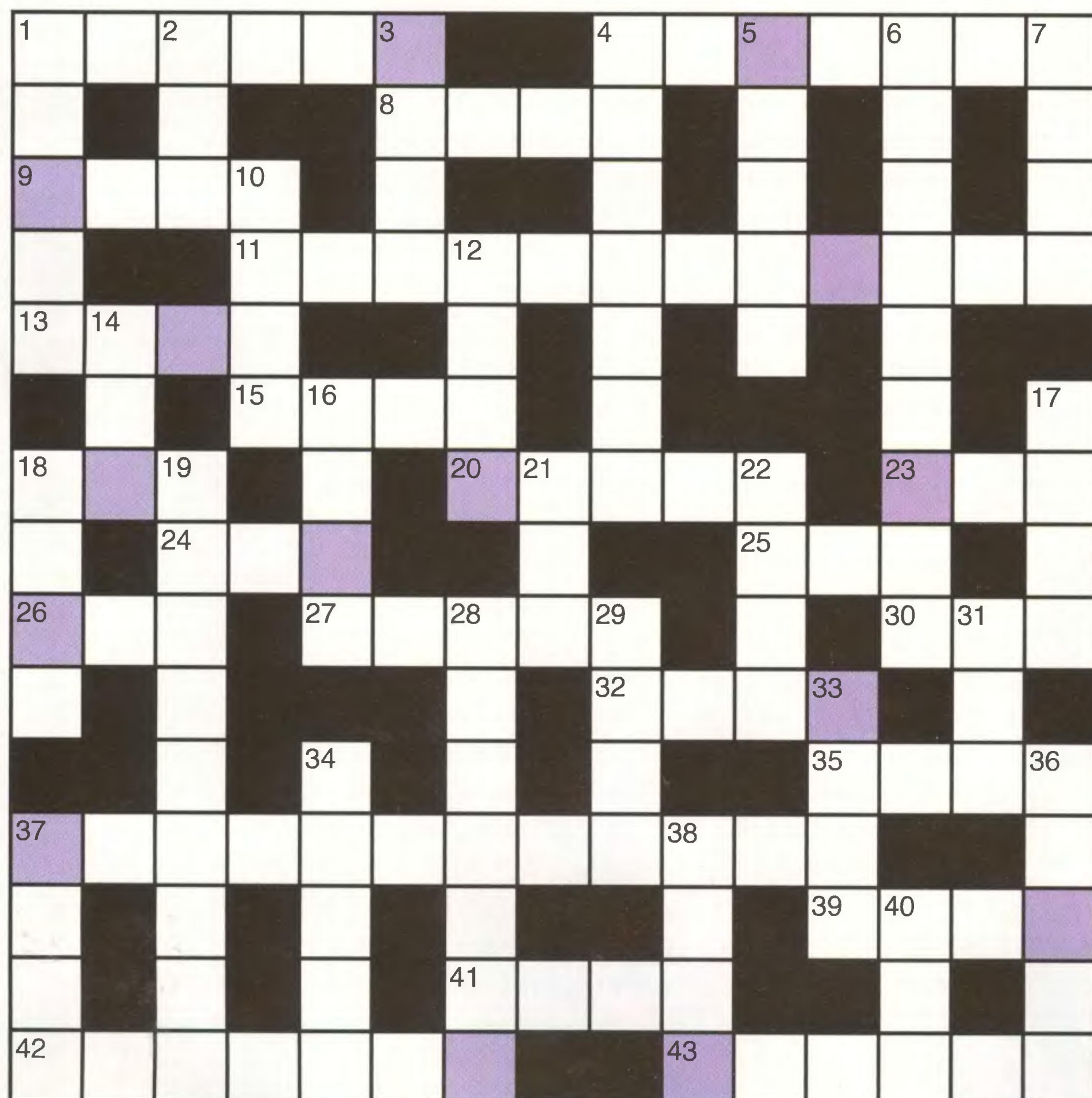
quick crossword

Solve the clues, then rearrange the letters in the shaded squares to spell the name of an actress with a February birthday (8,7)

We're giving you the chance to win one of five fantastic goodie bags from Abakhan, worth £10 each. Abakhan has been trading for almost 60 years, offering a fantastic selection of yarns, fabrics, crafts, trimmings and haberdashery. Shop online at www.abakhan-onlineshop.co.uk to find exciting deals such as 85% off all Sirdar yarn packs (all 500g packs £5.99, all 1000g packs £11).

How to enter

Simply send in the name of the actress revealed in the shaded squares, and the first five out of the hat will win! Send your answers on a postcard or the back of an envelope to: *Knit Today* Crossword 30, 9th Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN. Don't forget to include your name, address and telephone number. Usual competition rules apply - see page 32.



ACROSS

- 1 Drinking vessel with a base and stem (6)
- 4 One of the Seven Dwarfs who befriended Snow White (7)
- 8 Garden tool (4)
- 9 Swedish Eurovision winners in 1974 (4)
- 11 Done with total commitment (12)
- 13 Sicilian volcano (4)
- 15 Historic English walled city (4)
- 18 Pocket watch chain (3)
- 20 Vote into office (5)
- 23 Frozen water (3)
- 24 - - - Baba, *Arabian Nights* character (3)
- 25 Sprint, dash (3)
- 26 At a great distance (3)
- 27 Overdue, late (5)
- 30 Large Australian bird (3)
- 32 Baking compartment (4)
- 35 God of love in Greek myth (4)
- 37 Surprising toy! (4,2,3,3)
- 39 Slim, lean (4)
- 41 Reminder note (4)
- 42 Distinctive aspect (7)
- 43 Stinging plant (6)

DOWN

- 1 Forest clearing (5)
- 2 Protective garment for a baby (3)
- 3 Group of three musicians (4)
- 4 Dome-shaped hair style (7)
- 5 Largest African country (5)
- 6 Narrow pasta ribbons (9)
- 7 Noisy, deafening (4)
- 10 Absent, elsewhere (4)
- 12 Inland expanse of water (4)
- 14 As well (3)
- 16 Leave out (4)
- 17 Paddington's country of birth (4)
- 18 Small high-pitched flute (4)
- 19 Predatory fish with a protruding lower jaw (9)
- 21 Young boy (3)
- 22 Genuine, factual (4)
- 28 Style of jazz piano music (7)
- 29 Wooden frame that links oxen (4)
- 31 Sound made by a cow (3)
- 33 Following, subsequent (4)
- 34 Spiced rice dish (5)
- 36 Burn superficially (5)
- 37 - - - Goldblum, *Jurassic Park* actor (4)
- 38 Something extremely useful or helpful (4)
- 40 Mountain shelter (3)

R O W A N



Natural beauty

Embellish this sweater with
leaf embroidery



Marie Wallin has been an important in-house designer at Rowan for many years and is enthusiastic about yarns that are organic, sustainable and ethically sourced

BY **Marie Wallin**

We continue with our series of patterns from Rowan's organic yarn collections with this lovely embroidered organic wool sweater

Take a look through your favourite knitted sweaters and cardigans, and you'll probably find that the simple, comfortable styles are the ones you turn to most often. This design from Rowan starts out by being as basic as possible, with simple lines and small, easy garter stitch cuffs and collar. The embroidered leaf motif around the collar and sleeves is also a very simple design, but gives just the right touch of style and class – a perfect example of less being more.

toxic effluents, so you can be sure that you're knitting with yarn that's completely eco-friendly. The eight natural shades available include pumpkin-coloured Alder Buckthorn (shade 606), light green Ivy (602) and dark brown Tannin (604).

Embroidered elegance

It could be tempting to finish this sweater without the leaf pattern, but encourage yourself to give it a try. You will be surprised at how beautifully it turns out, and the compliments you'll surely receive from your friends will be well-deserved. The design is all worked in chain stitch – this is especially easy on knitted fabric as you can make one chain per knit stitch, and not have to worry about a chain stitch coming out larger or smaller than the ones around it. We've explained chain stitch for you on page 58, if you've never done it before. Why not use these lovely motifs on another favourite sweater or cardigan pattern, or if you're feeling adventurous, create your own design to chain stitch onto a garment?

All organic

Rowan's sumptuous organic yarn collection includes a pure wool range, which comes from sheep grazed on land free from pesticides and chemical fertilisers. It's then dyed with natural, sustainable plant dyes that don't produce any

YARN

Rowan Purelife Organic Wool

Content:
100% organic wool

Weight/Length:
50g/125m

Washing:
Hand wash 30°
RRP: £4.95

Rowan,
☎01484 681881,
www.knitrowan.com



➔ turn over to start knitting



Knit this simple design using
100% organic wool

PATTERN
DETAILS



YOU
WILL
NEED...

- ✓ Rowan Purelife Organic Wool DK, Natural (shade 600), as listed in the sizing guide
- ✓ Rowan Purelife Organic Wool DK, Horsetail (shade 605), 1 ball
- ✓ 3.75mm (UK size 9) knitting needles
- ✓ 4mm (UK size 8) knitting needles

tension

Yarn used knits as DK to the following tension:

22 sts and 30 rows to 10cm or 4in measured over st st, using 4mm (UK size 8) needles.

CHAIN
STITCH

Bring the thread up and hold it down with your thumb. Insert the needle back in the same place, bringing the point out a short distance away. Pull the thread through, keeping the thread loop under the needle point.



START
HERE!

BACK

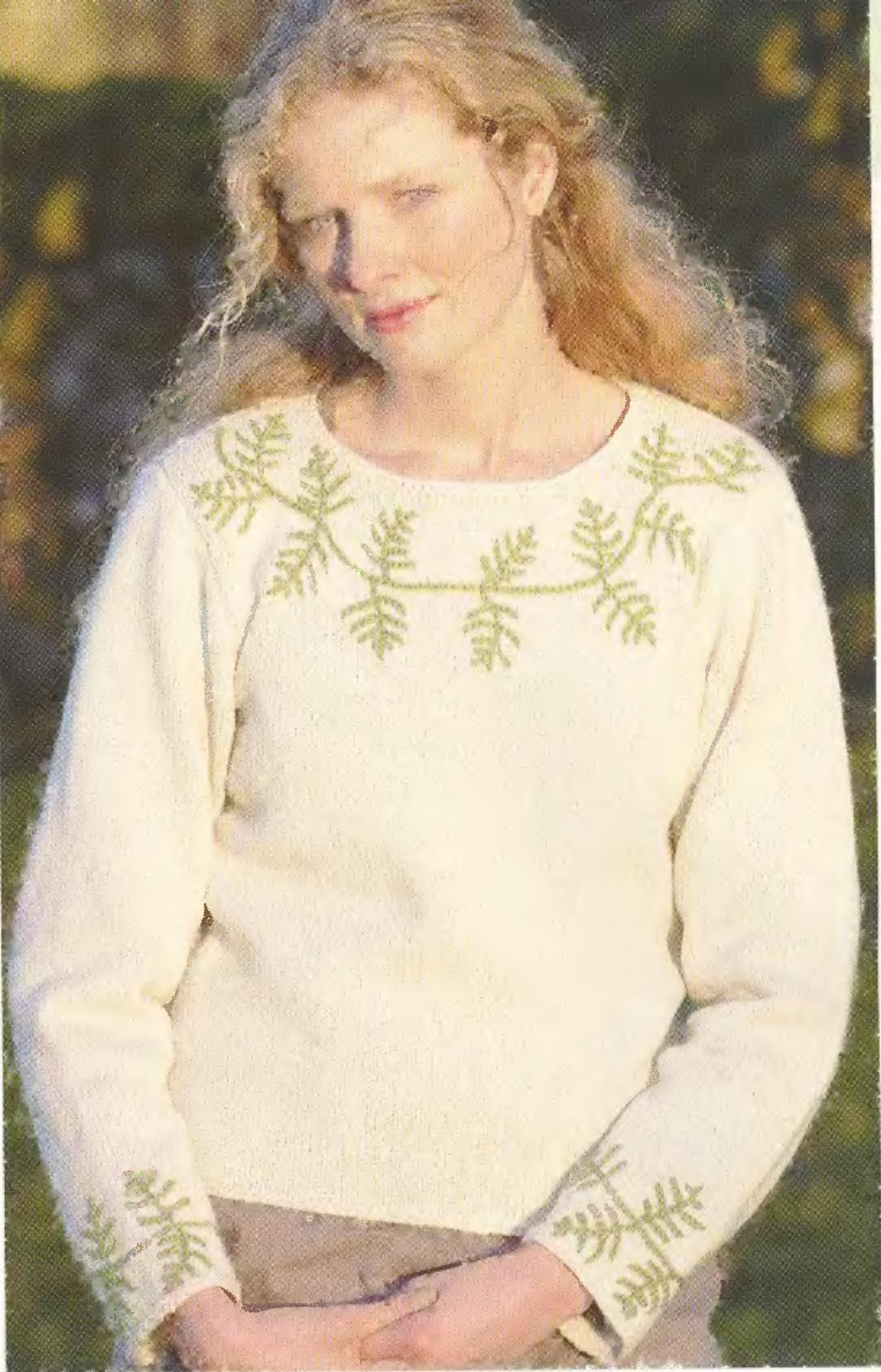
Using 3.75mm needles and yarn A, **cast on** 93 (97: 101: 107: 115: 121: 127: 135) sts.
Work in g st for 2 rows, ending with RS facing for next row.
Change to 4mm needles.
Beg with a K row, work in st st until back meas 34 (34: 33: 36: 35: 37: 36: 38)cm or 13½ (13½: 13: 14¼: 13¾: 14½: 14¼: 15)in, ending with RS facing for next row.

Shape armholes

Cast off 3 (4: 4: 5: 5: 6: 6: 7) sts at beg of next 2 rows. 87 (89: 93: 97: 105: 109: 115: 121) sts.
Dec 1 st at each end of next 3 (3: 5: 5: 7: 7: 9: 9) rows, then on foll 4 (4: 3: 3: 4: 4: 3: 5) alt rows. 73 (75: 77: 81: 83: 87: 91: 93) sts.
Cont straight until armhole meas 18 (18: 19: 19: 20: 20: 21: 21)cm or 7 (7: 7½: 7½: 8: 8: 8¼: 8¼) in, ending with RS facing for next row.

Shape shoulders and back neck

Next row (RS): Cast off 6 (6: 7: 7: 7: 8: 9: 9) sts, K until there are 18 (19: 19: 21: 21: 22: 23: 24) sts on right needle and turn, leaving rem sts on a holder.
Work each side of neck separately.
Cast off 3 sts at beg of next row, 6 (6: 7: 7: 7: 8: 9: 9) sts at beg of foll row, then 3 sts at beg of next row.
Cast off rem 6 (7: 6: 8: 8: 8: 8: 9) sts.
With RS facing, rejoin yarn to rem sts, cast off centre 25 (25: 25: 25: 27: 27: 27: 27) sts, K to end.
Complete to match first side, reversing shapings.



FRONT

Work as given for back until 22 (22: 22: 24: 24: 24: 26: 26) rows less have been worked than on back to beg of shoulder shaping, ending with RS facing for next row.

Shape neck

Next row (RS): K28 (29: 30: 33: 33: 35: 38: 39) and turn, leaving rem sts on a holder.
Work each side of neck separately.
Dec 1 st at neck edge of next 6 rows, then on foll 2 (2: 2: 3: 3: 3: 4: 4) alt rows, then on 2 foll 4th rows. 18 (19: 20: 22: 22: 24: 26: 27) sts.
Work 3 rows, ending with RS facing for next row.

Shape shoulder

Cast off 6 (6: 7: 7: 7: 8: 9: 9) sts at beg of next and foll alt row.
Work 1 row.
Cast off rem 6 (7: 6: 8: 8: 8: 8: 9) sts.
With RS facing, rejoin yarn to rem sts, cast off centre. 17 (17: 17: 15: 17: 17: 15: 15) sts, K to end.
Complete to match first side, reversing shapings.

SIZING GUIDE		8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22
TO FIT CHEST	in	32	34	36	38	40	42	44	46
	cm	81	86	91	97	102	107	112	117
LENGTH TO SHOULDER	in	21½	21½	21½	22½	22½	23	23	24
	cm	54	54	54	57	57	59	59	61
SLEEVE LENGTH	in	17½	17½	17¾	17¾	18	18	17¾	17¾
	cm	44	44	45	45	46	46	45	45
NUMBER OF BALLS		8	8	8	9	10	10	10	11

SLEEVES

Using 3.75mm needles and yarn A, **cast on** 49 (49: 51: 51: 53: 53: 55: 55) sts.

Work in g st for 2 rows, ending with RS facing for next row.

Change to 4mm needles.

Beg with a K row, work in st st, inc 1 st at each end of 5th (5th: 5th: 5th: 5th: 3rd: 3rd: 3rd) and every foll 6th (6th: 6th: 6th: 6th: 6th: 4th: 4th) row to 75 (83: 83: 91: 89: 95: 61: 67) sts, then on every foll 8th (8th: 8th: 0: 8th: 0: 6th: 6th) row until there are 85 (87: 89: 91: 93: 95: 97: 99) sts. Cont straight until sleeve meas 44 (44: 45: 45: 46: 46: 45: 45)cm or 17¼ (17¼: 17¼: 17¼: 18: 18: 17¾: 17¾)in, ending with RS facing for next row.

Shape top

Cast off 3 (4: 4: 5: 5: 6: 6: 7) sts at beg of next 2 rows. 79 (79: 81: 81: 83: 83: 85: 85) sts.

Dec 1 st at each end of next 5 rows, then on every foll alt row to 63 sts, then on foll 15 rows, ending with RS facing for next row. 33 sts.

Cast off 5 sts at beg of next 2 rows.

Cast off rem 23 sts.

Making up

Block back, front and sleeves and press according to instructions on ball band.

Join right shoulder seam using back stitch, or mattress stitch if preferred.

Neckband

With RS facing, using 3.75mm needles and yarn A, pick up and knit 22 (22: 22: 24: 24: 24: 26: 26) sts down left side of neck, 17 (17: 17: 15: 17: 17: 15: 15) sts from front, 22 (22: 22: 24: 24: 24: 26: 26) sts up right side of neck, then 37 (37: 37: 37: 39: 39: 39: 39) sts from back.

98 (98: 98: 100: 104: 104: 106: 106) sts.

Work in g st for 2 rows, ending with WS facing for next row.

Cast off knitwise (on WS).

Place centre of cast-off edge of sleeve to shoulder seam. Set in sleeve, easing sleeve head into armhole. Using yarn B and following diagram, embroider design onto front and sleeves using chain stitch.

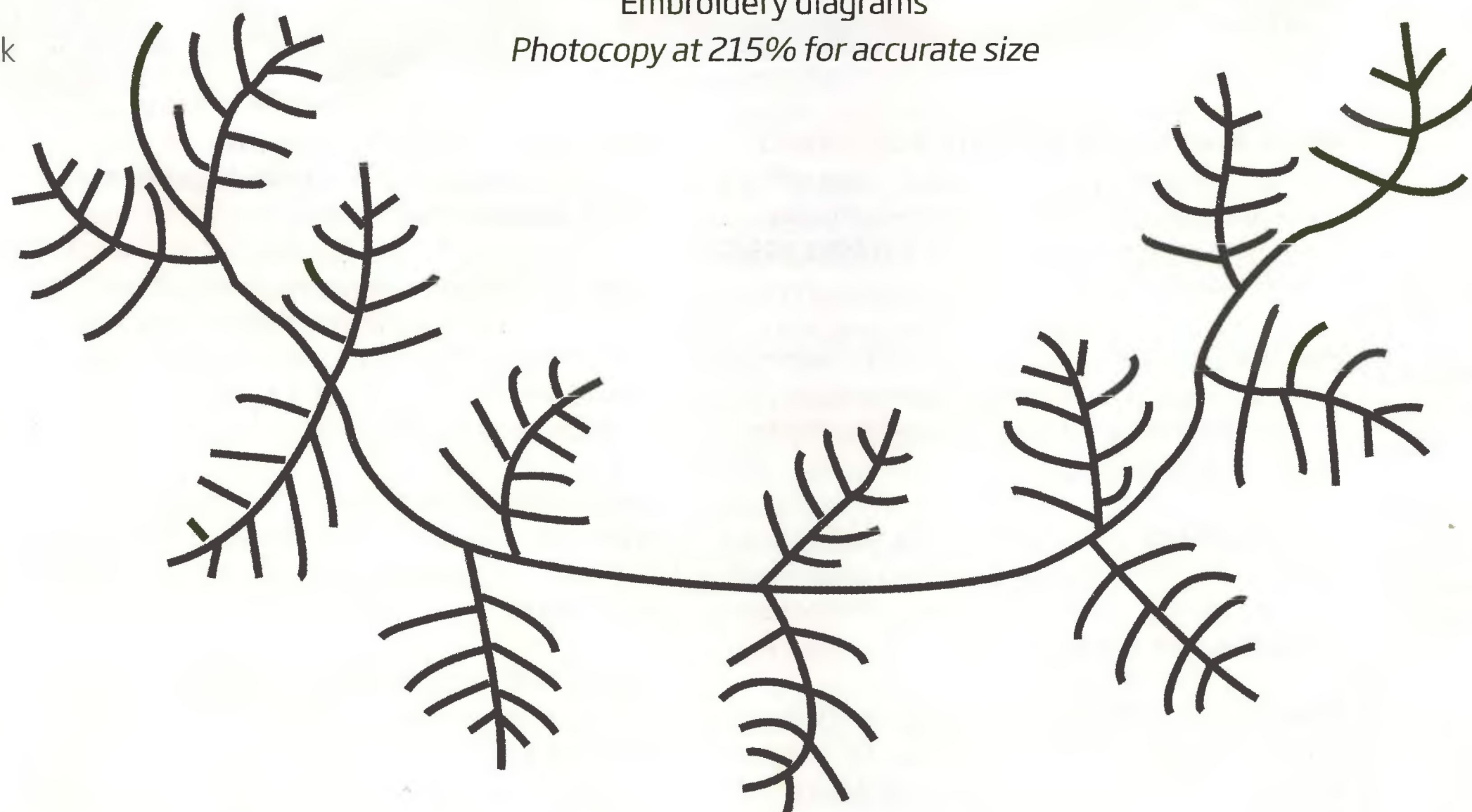
ABBREVIATIONS

alt	alternate
beg	beginning
cm	centimetre(s)
dec	decrease
foll	following
g st	garter stitch
in	inch(es)
inc	increase
K	knit
meas	measures
P	purl
rem	remaining
RS	right side
st(s)	stitch(es)
WS	wrong side

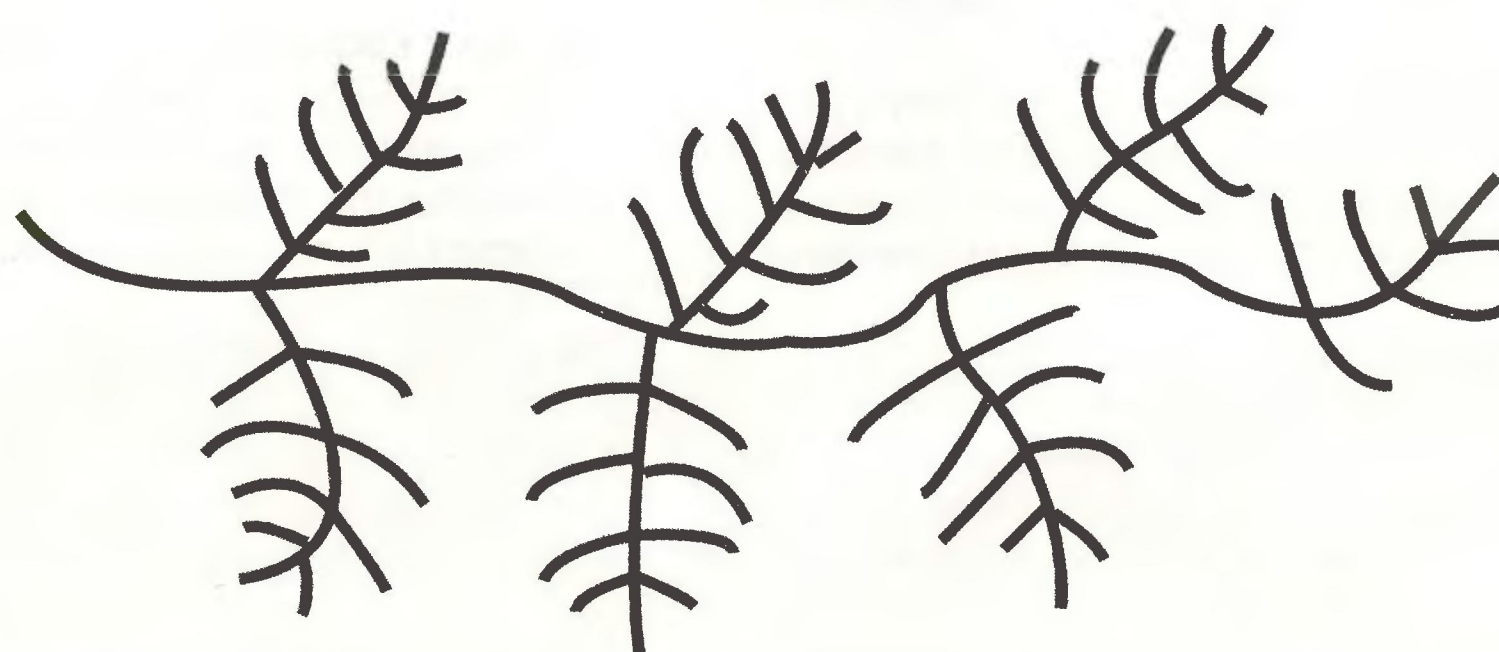
Embroidery diagrams

Photocopy at 215% for accurate size

Neck



Sleeve



toptip

Trace the design onto dressmaker's pattern paper and stitch over it, pulling the paper away as you go along

THERE'S MORE!

You can find this pattern and a lovely selection of 11 others by Marie Wallin that use Rowan Purelife Organic Wool in *The Organic Wool Collection*. To find out more, visit the Rowan website at www.knitrowan.com or call ☎ 01484 681881

the organic wool collection



ROWAN
purelife

Knit club

Look here to find a knitting group in your area, and meet fellow crafters! Or, tell us about your club and find out how you can win a prize – turn to page 63 for more info

South East

London Stitch 'n' Bitch meets weekly as notified on MySpace or by mailing list. Email stitchandb.london@googlemail.com or visit <http://groups.myspace.com/stitchandbitchuk>

Crafty Yarn meets on Monday evenings, every three weeks from 7-9pm, alternately in Caversham and Tilehurst at members' houses. For more information, contact Abby on ☎ 0118 9431144 or email info@crafty-yarn.co.uk

Crafty Knitters meets Wednesday afternoons, 1-4pm at Sussex Crafts, 45 High Street, Cuckfield, West Sussex. For more information, call ☎ 01444 455611 or visit www.sussexcrafts.co.uk

Welwyn Wednesday Knitters meets on the second Wednesday of the month, from 10.30am-12.30pm at Campus West Theatre Coffee Shop. For more details, call ☎ 07808 969379 or email catherine.young@btconnect.com

Knit Club Tuesday meets every Tuesday from 5-7pm in the fabulous You Don't Bring Me Flowers Café at 15 Staplehurst Road, Hither Green. For details, call ☎ 020 82972333 or visit www.youdontbringmeflowers.co.uk

Knit 'N' Natter Knitting Group gets together twice a month on Thursdays, at the South Lodge Hotel, Brighton Road, Horsham. For more info, email mary.escott@btinternet.com or call ☎ 01403 269625

Knit 'N' Natter meets on the first Saturday of the month, 2-4pm at the East Grinstead Library, West Street, East Grinstead. For more info, email pnf@funnellp.fsnet.co.uk



Knit with Crumbs Knitters in the Crumbs Tearoom, Coleford



Herts Knattering Knitters & Stitchers meets at St Paul's Church Hall, St Paul's Close (off Cranes Way), Borehamwood on alternate Mondays from 6.30-9pm. For more details, call ☎ 07931 569927 or email hkks0@ntlworld.com

Pantiles Knitters meets on alternate Wednesdays and Thursdays, in the last week of the month, at the Shiraz Restaurant, The Corn Exchange, 49 The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells.

I Knit London knitting group meets on the second Wednesday of the month, in various pub venues, with members of all ages and abilities. For more information, visit www.iknit.org.uk

Maidstone Knitters meets at Ethos, 9 Gabriels Hill, Maidstone on the second Saturday of each month, from 1-3pm. For more information, call ☎ 01622 851885 or email hawkeylodge@btinternet.com

Craft Club meets on the 4th Thursday of the month at Rainham Bookshop, 17-23 Station Road, Rainham, Gillingham. For more details, call ☎ 01634 371591

KTOG group meets fortnightly above the community centre on the High Street in Baldock, North Hertfordshire. Meetings run from 7-9pm and entry is £3.50. For more information, contact info@ktog.co.uk

London Crochet Club meets every fortnight, for both knitting and crochet. Venues vary but members will be contacted by email with the details. For more info, visit <http://knitting.meetup.com/1271/> or email organiser Helda Panagary, at heldap@hotmail.co.uk

Basingstoke Knit In & Natter Group meets on the second Thursday of the month at Pack Lane

Wool & Crafts, from 2-5pm. Entry is £3. For more information, call ☎ 01256 462590 or email zoe@packlanewool.co.uk

Knit 'N' Natter meets on Wednesdays from 10am-12pm and Thursdays from 6-8pm at Pandora, High Street, Guildford. For more info, call Karen on ☎ 01483 828771 or ☎ 07983 718431, or email karengoring@hotmail.com

Avicraft Knitters Club meets Thursdays at Avicraft Wool Shop, 15 Chatterton Road, Bromley, from 6.30-9pm. To find out more, contact Sharon on ☎ 020 84600818

Craft Club meets Tuesday mornings, 10am-1pm at 40 Tabard Street, London. £1 to attend. Call ☎ 020 74071123

Knitaholics meets on the third Thursday of the month from 7.30-9.30pm at St Michael's Church, Chadwick Hall, Gidea Park, Romford. For more information, call ☎ 01708 347263

Swampy Ewe Club meets fortnightly in Sheerness and monthly on Saturday evenings. For details of next meeting, email Rowena at cookiegurl13@hotmail.com or call ☎ 01795 668239. For more information, visit <http://klik.to/swampyeweknitted>

Maxime Wools Knit Club meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month from 6-8.30pm at 68 Banstead Rd, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey. To register, call ☎ 020 86615625 or send an email to enquiries@maximewools.co.uk

Knit and Natter Group meets on the first Friday of the month in Ray Lodge Church Hall, Woodford



The Nifty Needles group meets in Kidlington, Oxon

Green, from 10.30am-12pm, 25p per session. For more information, email knitandknatter@ntlworld.com

Braintree Knitting Club meets on the first and third Monday of the month at 7.30pm, at Phillers Café. For more details, call ☎ **01376 329582** or visit <http://braintreknittinggroup.blogspot.com>

Creative Needlecrafts meets every Thursday from 7-8.30pm for knitting, crochet, needlecrafts, tea and a giggle, at the Community Centre, Tanners Brook School, Southampton. For further details, contact Jenny on ☎ **02380 789510**

Purl and Dean meets on the second Monday of the month in the bar of the Stratford Picturehouse. For information, call Ro on ☎ **020 8519 1812** or Claire on ☎ **07960 419010**

Uckfield Knit and Natter meets at the Coffee House, Uckfield, East Sussex, on the first Wednesday of the month from 10am-12pm. For more information, call Ann on ☎ **01825 767757** or email akd@f2s.com

Arcade Knitters meets on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month at the Fabric Store, The Arcade, Littlehampton, from 2-4pm, and on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month at Parkside Church Hall, St Flora's Road, Littlehampton. Space is limited at the Fabric Store but we'd love to welcome newcomers to Parkside Church Hall. For more details, call Julie on ☎ **01903 717648** or email jbptl@tesco.net

Moonstone Knitting Circle meets on the first and third Tuesday of the month from 11am-1pm at Moonstone Yarns, The Olde Watermill Shopping Village, Off Faldo Road, Barton-Le-Clay MK45 4RF. For further details, call Patricia on ☎ **01582 883176** or log on to the website at www.moonstoneyarns.co.uk

Frinton Knit 'N' Natterers meets every Friday from 1-3pm at Fire Your Inspiration, 14 Old Road, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex. £2 per session including drink. For more info call Michelle Oppezco-Scott on ☎ **01255 886814** or ☎ **07986 667411**

South West

Crumbs Knitters meets Wednesdays from 7-9pm at Crumbs Tearooms, 11A Gloucester Road, Coleford. For more information, contact Joanne on ☎ **01594 811177** or email joanne@crumbcraftsngifts.com



Knitting Group in Crediton meets every Friday morning in term time from 10am-12pm at the Sir Redvers Buller Pub, High Street, Crediton. For information, call Sarah on ☎ **01363 777850** or email carolineward69@btinternet.com

Bath Stitch 'N' Bitch meets at the Kindling Coffee Shop from 2-5.30pm on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. Tuesday group meets in the Crystal Palace Tavern at 7pm on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. For details, email jessicapollitt@hotmail.com

In Tarsia meets at the Hall for Gwinear on the fourth Thursday of the month from 2-4pm. For more info, contact Beth on ☎ **01736 850739** or at bethsaundry@btinternet.co.uk

Knit Club @ Cribbs is held twice monthly at John Lewis, Cribbs Causeway on Thursday evenings. For more details, contact Fiona Winning on ☎ **0117 9591100**

The Wool Sanctuary Knit Club meets at 12 Treveleyan Road in Weston-super-Mare on the third Saturday of the month, from 10am-4pm. For more info, call Suzie on ☎ **01934 414906** or visit www.thewoolsanctuary.com

Bristol Knit meets on the first and third Wednesday of the month at The Watershed, from 7pm.

Shaldon Knitting Group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 1 Horse Lane, Shaldon, Devon from 10am-12pm and 6.30-9pm. For more details, contact Alison on ☎ **01626 873615** or alison@lanapura.com

Swindon Stitch 'N' Bitch meets at Manor Pub, Haydon Wick, Swindon on Mondays from 7.30-10pm. For details, email traceymajor@ukonline.co.uk

K1SIP1 meets fortnightly from 8-9.30pm in the Wellesley Arms Pub, Sutton Benger, Chippenham. For more information, call Ed on ☎ **07773 254004** or Nic on ☎ **07788 425475**, or visit <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/k1sip1>

Bournemouth & Poole SNB Knitting & Needlecraft Group meets on the first and third Thursday of the month at 8pm, at the All Fired Up Ceramic Café, Bournemouth. Visit the group pages at www.ravelry.com for info, email paulclarebelinda@aol.com or call ☎ **07973 440897**

South West Knit and Natter Group meets every Wednesday from 2-4pm at Village Yarns, 7 Whipton Village Road, Exeter, Devon. For more information call Jane or Pam on ☎ **01392 670443** or email villageyarns@yahoo.co.uk

Wells Knitting Centre Knitting Club meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7pm, at 5 Mill Street, Wells. Open to all, from experienced knitters to complete beginners.

Woolcake Workshop meets every six weeks for workshops and a group get together in Cheddar. For further details call Debbie on ☎ **01749 870460**, Julie on ☎ **01934 743263**, or visit www.woolcake.co.uk

If you run a **knitting club**, send in your details and photos to: knittoday@originpublishing.co.uk

Midlands

Knit and Chat is every Wednesday from 10am-12pm and Thursdays from 5-7pm at Yarn, 55 Chilwell Road, Beeston, Nottingham. For info call ☎ **0115 9253606** or visit the website at www.yarn-in-notts.co.uk

Birmingham Stitch 'N' Bitch meets every Saturday, from 11am-1pm, at the Edwardian Tea Rooms, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.

Loughborough Knit & Chat meets on the second Tuesday of the month from 7pm, at each others' homes. Call ☎ **01509 261845** or email trish.moore@virgin.net

Knit Lincs Lincoln Branch gets together on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month at the Drill Hall Café in Freeschool Lane, Lincoln, from 2-4pm. Call ☎ **07799 650691** or email nicola_i_sharp@hotmail.com

Knit Lincs Sleaford Branch gets together on the first Saturday of the month at the Hub Craft Centre, Navigation Wharf, Sleaford from 2-4pm. Contact Fiona on ☎ **01526 832074** or email fionabaker@tesco.net

Stitch 'N' Bitch Towcester meets on the first Thursday of the month from 7.30-9pm at The Dolphin Café, 175 Watling Street. For more info, call ☎ **01327 860159** or email backinbalance@hotmail.com

Coventry Nit Wits meets Wednesdays, 7-9pm at the Town Crier Pub, Corporation Street. Contact Jane on ☎ **07765 060991** or email xelphinus@yahoo.com

United In Knitting meets 11am-1pm every Saturday at the Pump House Environment Centre, Barbourne, Worcester. For more details, email unitedinknitting@hotmail.com

Knit & Natter meets at Busy Hands, Nottingham Road, Borrowash, Derby on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month from 1.30-3pm. Contact Margaret White on ☎ **01332 721638** or minwhit1@ntlworld.com

Knot Just Knitting meets on the first Wednesday of the month from 7-9pm at St Andrew's Church Rooms, Crown St, Kettering, £2 to cover room, coffee, tea, etc. Contact Michele Hale ☎ **07734 861916**

Diss Knit & Natter Group meets on the first Thursday of the month at Diss Wool & Craft Shop, Norfolk from 6.30-9pm. Call ☎ **01379 650640** or sales@dissswoolandcrafts.com

Knit club focus

Turn to page 63 for *Club of the month*

We meet the members of the Knit and Yarn club



knitclub

Linslade Knitters meets for all types of stitching at Home Cottages, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard. For more details, email leannepizzey@yahoo.co.uk

Betty Knitter's Knit and Natter meets every Wednesday at the Greyhound Inn, New Buildings, Hinckley from 1-3pm. Come along for friendly conversation at this relaxed and informal group. For more info, call Liz on ☎ **01455 446728**

Knitterati Knit & Natter meets on the first Wednesday of the month from 10am-12pm and 2-4pm at The Smeltings, Furnace Bank, Great Gate, Staffordshire Moorlands. For more information, call ☎ **01889 507552** or visit www.knitterati.com

Knitting and Crochet Group meets in Tamworth on Thursday afternoons at The Flarepath Club, Lichfield Street. All levels welcome. Call Jane Partridge on ☎ **01827 310688** or email knitting@cwweb.free-online.co.uk for more info.

Nifty Needles meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at Kidlington Baptist Church, Kidlington, Oxon OX5 2DS from 7.30-9.30pm. Call Sharon Povey on ☎ **07894 098587** or ☎ **01296 770921** for more info.

Knit and Yarn meets every Friday from 10am-4.30pm at Knit and Yarn, 3 Upper Olland Street, Bungay, Suffolk NR35 1BD. For more information visit www.knitandyarn.co.uk, email gillybell@knitandyarn.co.uk or call ☎ **01986 895400**

RK Knit Chicks meets Tuesdays from 2-3.30pm and Wednesdays from 11.30am-1pm at Raptor Krafts, The Heath, St Ives Road, Woodhurst PE28 3BT. For more information call Lynne Pope on ☎ **01487 840011**, email info@raptorkrafts.co.uk or visit www.raptorkrafts.co.uk

North

Patchworks Knit and Natter meets every other Wednesday from 1-3pm in the Upstairs at Patchworks in Chorley, Lancs. For details, call Louise on ☎ **01257 277324**

Warrington Knit N Natter meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at Starbucks inside Borders on Riverside Retail Park from 7pm. For more info, call ☎ **07974 652208** or email katiwignall@hotmail.com

Cast-on Knitters meets Mondays, 4-7pm in Starbucks, Centenary Square in Bradford. For more details, email Orysia at knits.galore@googlemail.com or call ☎ **01274 394390**

New Brighton Knitters meets Tuesdays, 7.45-10pm at Made, 36 Seaview Road, Wallasey, Merseyside. For more info, call ☎ **0151 6300391** or visit www.newbrightonknitters.co.uk

Brimstage Babes meets on the first Thursday of the month at the Voirrey Embroidery Centre, Brimstage, Wirral from 5-7pm. For details, call ☎ **01244 328828**

The Sewing Knitting Shop Club meets up on Tuesdays from 7-9pm at Sew In, 46 Market Street, Marple, call ☎ **0161 4272529**, and Wednesdays from 7-9pm at Sew In, 741 Wilmslow Road, Didsbury, Manchester, call ☎ **0161 4455861**

All Saints Knit & Knitter meets on the



first Tuesday of the month at 2pm in the Vicarage in Liverpool. Call ☎ **0151 2283581** or email kathleencooper1@yahoo.co.uk

West Kirby Knit & Natter meets every other Friday at 11am for one hour at The Library, Concourse, West Kirby, Wirral. Contact Jean on ☎ **0151 6258943**

Knit & Natter in Middlesbrough meets Saturday mornings at Nature's World Tea Rooms in Ladgate Lane from 10.30am. Contact Sandra on ☎ **01642 312426**

Knit + Stitch meets every Thursday from 7-9pm at The Griffin Community Centre in Barrow-in-Furness and has 20+ members. For details, call Valery Foden on ☎ **01229 822150**

Attica's Knifty Knitters meets every Monday from 6.30-8.30pm at Attica Wool Shop, 3 Garden Street, Hebden Bridge. Contact Carol or Jean on ☎ **01422 844327**

Cassop Knit N Natter Group meets Thursdays, 1-3pm at the Cassop Community Centre, Cassop, County Durham. Entry is £2, refreshments are provided. For more info, call Lesley on ☎ **01429 821102**

Knit and Natter meets every 2nd and last Thursday evening, from 5.30pm at Lexie Knits, 2 Brook Street, Driffield. For more info, call Lexie Lancaster on ☎ **01377 272303**

Northern Ireland

Glen Gallery Knitting Club meets on the first Thursday of the month from 10am-12pm at Glen Gallery, 48 Fenagh Road, Cullybackey, Co Antrim, Northern Ireland BT43 5PH. For more information, call ☎ **028 25880354**

Scotland

Gourock Stitch 'N' Bitch meets Thursdays from 8pm at Flava Coffee Shop, Kempock St, Gourock. All welcome. Contact Karen at karen@cragwood.co.uk

Loving Hands Charity Knitting Club meets Mondays from 1-3pm in Kelty Community Centre and Monday evenings from 7-9pm in The Staff Club, Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy. Call ☎ **01383 830277** or visit www.lovinghands.org.uk

Wooly Wags meets every Thursday at 7.30pm at Swansacre Playgroup, Kinross. For more details, contact Anna on ☎ **01577 864232**

Knit and Chat meets Wednesdays at 22 Maitland Court, Helensburgh, Dumbartonshire, Scotland G84 7EE. For info, call Rosemary on ☎ **01436 6761780**

Stornoway Knit 'N' Natter meets Wednesday evenings at 7pm in the An Lanntair Cafe, Stornoway. For more info, contact Kelly Barker on ☎ **07511 223127** or email charminglochie@gmail.com

Wales

Knit Wits meets on Monday mornings from 10am-1pm at Yr Aelwyd Cwmfelin Community Centre, Jenkins Terrace/Maesteg Rd, Cwmfelin, Maesteg, Mid Glamorgan and costs £3 to attend. For more information call Anne on ☎ **01656 737323** or email institches4@hotmail.com

WRITE TO US!

WIN A FANTASTIC PRIZE!

Send your club details and photos to knittoday@originpublishing.co.uk or write to us (address on page 8) and you could win a prize the whole group will enjoy! Our club of the month will win *Funky Chunky Knitted Accessories* and *Funky Chunky Crochet Accessories*, worth £12.99 each (published by David & Charles, ☎ 0870 9908222).



This month's top club started off as just a dream. But now it's so popular that members meet all day long every Friday!

■ CLUB OF THE MONTH

Knit and Yarn

Gilly Bell always dreamed of opening her own yarn shop. She worked as a design consultant for Rowan and travelled regularly to Portland in Oregon, USA, where Gilly says: "the yarn stores are wonderful." So, the temptation was always there. Gilly's dream was realised in 2007, when she opened Knit and Yarn in Bungay, Suffolk, which specialises in designer yarns. "My other dream was to start a club where like-minded people could meet, try out yarns and patterns, and share ideas." And now that's come true, too!

Open house

The Knit and Yarners meet on Fridays in a studio next to the shop, and the group has gone from strength to strength. The club used to run from 12.30-2pm but Gilly found that this time was too limiting, so now there's an open house every Friday, where knitters can arrive and leave when they wish. "Fridays are always buzzing, but last week we were almost bursting at the seams!" Gilly laughs.

On a typical Friday, "Trish, our chief cake

maker, usually arrives with something quite delicious and everyone else shows off what they've been knitting. Projects we're working on at the moment include men's sweaters from the Rowan British Sheep Breeds Collection, socks and lace shawls. But, to be honest, we spend rather a lot of time chatting!" chuckles Gilly.

Every kind of people

There's a wide range of ages and skill levels at the club, and help is always on hand from Gilly and the other more experienced members. "Our favourite yarns are Debbie Bliss Baby Cashmerino, Noro Silk Garden, Rowan Bamboo Tape, Rowan Cashsoft, Rowan British Sheep Breeds, and Manos Classica and Silk Blends. And we love Lantern Moon and Addi Turbo knitting needles," Gilly reveals.

Knit and Yarn is close to the coast, and the open house attracts tourists during the summer. "Most say that they wished they had a club like ours closer to their home," Gilly says. And us *Knit Today* girls aren't surprised!

“My other dream was to start a club where like-minded people could meet, try out yarns and patterns, and share ideas”



The Knit and Yarn group are busy knitters, but also enjoy a good chat

FIND OUT MORE!

There's an open house at Knit and Yarn every Friday from 10am-4.30pm. So, why not pop along to the shop at 3 Upper Olland Street, Bungay, Suffolk NR35 1BD? For more info visit www.knitandyarn.co.uk, email gillybell@knitandyarn.co.uk or call ☎ 01986 895400

Knit this design by
*following a
chart*

Shades of blue



Rita Taylor has knitted since childhood and, in addition to designing, is particularly interested in the history of traditional knitting in Britain

BY *Rita Taylor*

This month, let your man know just how special he is by knitting him this cheerful striped jumper in handsome shades of blue

You can now stop searching for the right winter knit for your special someone – we've got the perfect thing here in the shape of a warm and fun jumper, knitted using a surprising six shades of blue yarn. It will suit most style preferences as the striped pattern is made from muted shade changes rather than lots of different colours. If your man is one who tends to wear single, basic tones, this jumper will add a bit of brightness to his wardrobe.

Likewise, if he prefers to wear lots of colours whether they match or not, knitting him this jumper will satisfy both his style sense and your eyesight!

An ideal choice

The fact that this range of Bergere de France yarn is called

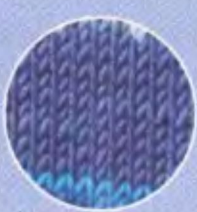
Ideal makes a lot of sense. Not only is it a soft and smooth combination of unshrinkable worsted wool, acrylic and polyamide, but it's also machine washable at 30° and a very reasonable £2.19 per ball.

If you'd like to try it on another project on your to knit list, you'll be spoilt for choice with 32 shades of Ideal. If you're feeling extra creative and want a fun project for a dreary day, you can knit the jumper in a different combination of colours from the range.

Striped, yet simple

Rita has kept this pattern very straightforward and easy to adjust to fit just right, which means you'll be able to devote most of your concentration to the varying stripe designs. You may find it useful to have a row counter nearby to keep track of where you are in the design repeat, or perhaps to copy the page and mark each row as you go through them.

If you have any advice that may help inexperienced knitters with this kind of pattern, be sure to write in and let us know!



YARN

Bergere de France
Ideal

Content:

40% worsted wool,
30% acrylic,
30% polyamide

Weight/Length:
50g/125m

Washing:

Machine wash 30°
RRP: £2.19

Bergere de France,
☎ 01606 883149

➔ turn over to start knitting

Chase away the dark
days of winter by knitting
this bright blue jumper



PATTERN
DETAILS



YOU
WILL
NEED...

- ✓ 6 (6: 7: 7) balls of Bergere de France Ideal in Persan (shade 242.571)
- ✓ 6 (6: 7: 7) balls Bergere de France Ideal in Marinier (shade 235.871)
- ✓ 3 balls each of Bergere de France Ideal in Myosotis (shade 208.411) and Alpin (shade 218.211)
- ✓ 1 ball each of Bergere de France Ideal in Meije (shade 512.531) and Caraibes (shade 259.831)
- ✓ 3mm (UK size 11) knitting needles
- ✓ 3.75mm (UK size 9) knitting needles
- ✓ Stitch holders

tension

Yarn used knits as DK to the following tension:

25 sts and 30 rows to 10cm or 4in on 3.75mm (UK size 9) needles.

note:

Pattern is worked over a multiple of 8 stitches, following chart. It is not necessary to centre the chart because the repeats are small.

START
HERE!

BACK

Using Persan and 3mm needles, **cast on** 128 (144: 160: 176) sts and work in K1, P1 ribbing for 5cm or 2in, ending with a WS row. Change to 3.75mm needles and work in st st, following chart until piece measures 38cm or 15in, or length required.

Shape armhole

Cast off 6 (7: 8: 9) sts at beg of next 2 rows. Dec 1 st at each end of every alt row until 108 (114: 128: 132) sts remain. Continue until armhole measures 22cm or 8¾in from beginning, ending after a WS row.

Shape shoulders

Cast off 8 sts at beg of next 8 (6: 0: 0) rows. Cast off 9 sts at beg of next 0 (2: 0: 2) rows. Cast off 10 sts at beg of foll 0 (0: 8: 6) rows. Place rem sts on holder.

FRONT

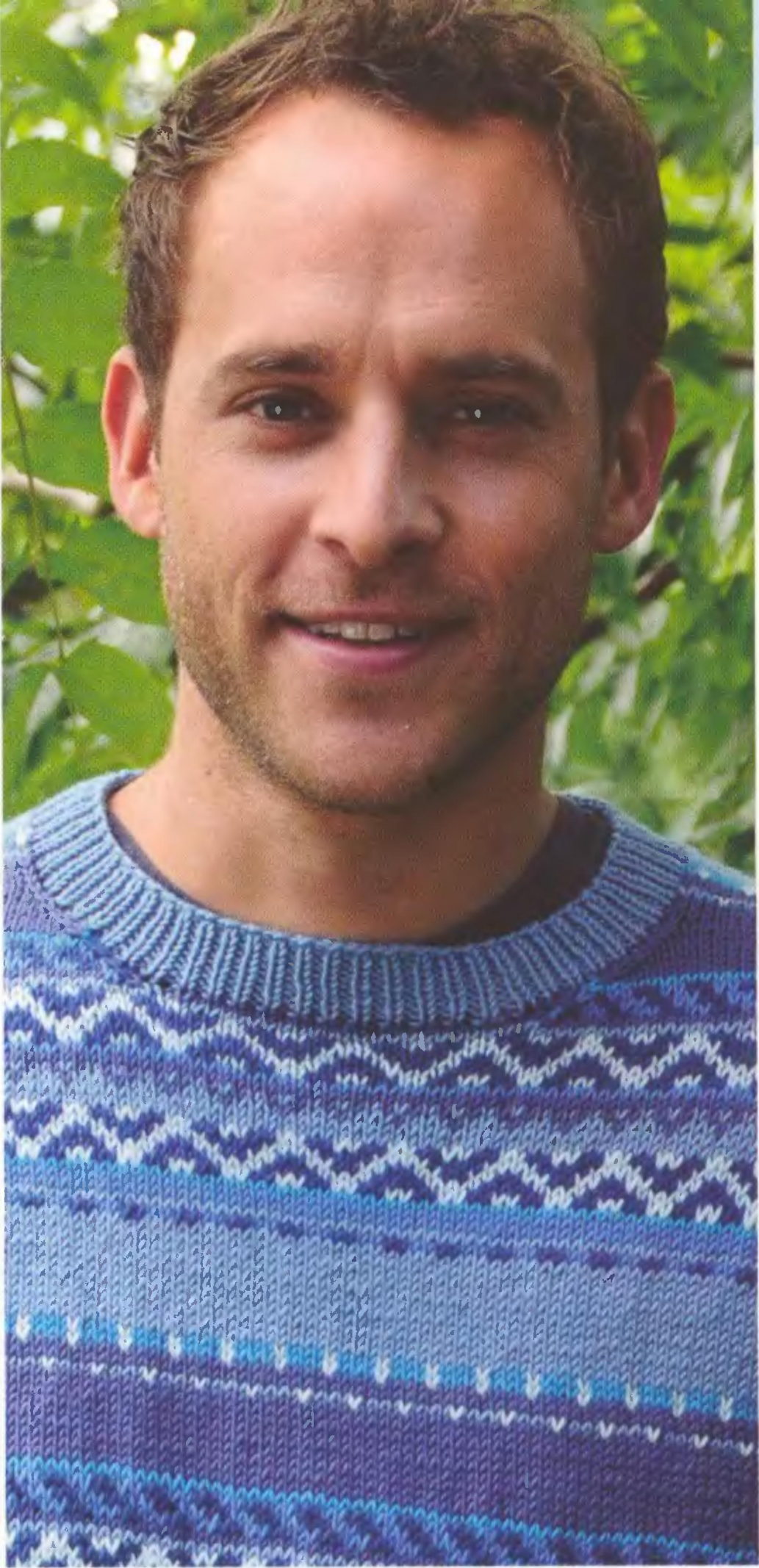
Work as for back until armhole measures 15cm or 6in.

Shape neck

Work 42 (44: 50: 52) sts. Slip these and next 24 (26: 28: 28) sts onto a holder. Work the rem 42 (44: 50: 52) sts. Dec 1 st at neck edge every row until 32 (33: 40: 39) sts remain. Work until armhole measures same as back.

Shape shoulders

For S and M sizes, cast off 8 sts at shoulder edge of next and foll 3 (2: 0: 0) alt rows. For all sizes, cast off 9 at same edge of next 0 (1: 0: 1) alt rows. Cast off 10 at beg of next 0 (0: 4: 3) alt rows. Work 1 row and cast off rem sts.



Work other side of neck to match, reversing shapings.

SLEEVES

Using Marinier, and 3mm needles, **cast on** 64 (64: 72: 80) sts. Work in K1, P1 ribbing for 6cm or 2½in. Change to size 3.75mm needles. Work in st st and follow chart from row 17. Inc 1 st at each end of every 7th row 3 (17: 19: 20) times, then every 8th row 11 (2: 0: 0) times to 92 (102: 110: 120) sts. Work until sleeve measures approx 50cm or 19¾in, ending on the same row of pattern as back and front at start of armhole shaping.

Shape sleeve head

Cast off 7 (7: 8: 9) sts at beg of next two rows. Dec 1 st at each end of every row 5 (6: 9: 8) times, work 6 rows straight then dec 1 st at each

SIZING GUIDE

		S	M	L	XL
TO FIT CHEST	in cm	39½ 100	43¾ 111	47½ 121	52 132
ACTUAL CHEST SIZE	in cm	41 104	45 114	49¼ 125	53½ 136

end of every alt row 15 (17: 14: 17) times. Dec 1 st at each end of every row 5 (6: 9: 8) times. Cast off rem stitches and join left shoulder seam.

NECKBAND

Using Persan and 3mm needles, pick up and knit 44 (48: 48: 54) sts from back neck holder, 30 (30: 33: 33) sts from left front neck edge, 24

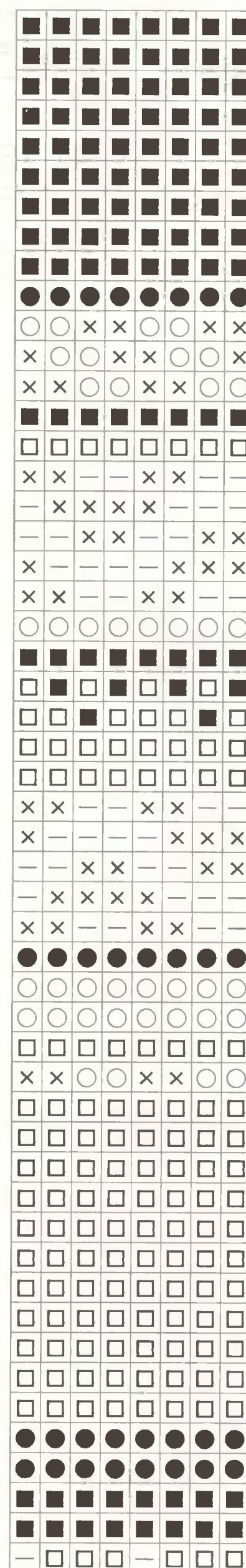
(26: 28: 28) sts from front neck holder and 30 (30: 33: 33) sts from right front neck edge. Change to Marinier and work 3cm or 1¼in (10 rows) in K1, P1 ribbing. Cast off loosely.

Making up

Set in sleeves, matching pattern as much as possible.

Join side and sleeve seams.

The design of the sweater is simple in order to highlight the striped pattern



Stripe design diagram

SYMBOL KEY

- Marinier
- ⊞ Meije
- Persan
- Caraibes
- ⊞ Myosotis
- ⊞ Alpin

ABBREVIATIONS

alt	alternate
beg	beginning
cm	centimetre(s)
dec	decrease
foll	following
in	inch(es)
inc	increase
K	knit
P	purl
rem	remaining
st(s)	stitch(es)
st st	stocking stitch
WS	wrong side

Next month

In March's issue, knit stunning striped designs using only one colour of yarn to make him a comfortable, relaxing sweater.

On sale 26 February



Purl Power

Have you ever wondered how your knitting can save the lives of other women – literally? We asked Tina Chantrey to investigate



Knitters all over the UK made squares for Oxfam's giant baby blanket

Each square represents a pregnant woman who would have survived if she had proper medical care



Starting in March 2008, Oxfam supporters set themselves the ambitious goal of knitting thousands of squares for a giant baby blanket, to bring attention to the lack of decent maternal medical care in poor countries. After six months of street knitting, knit-ins with MPs, and even knitting on tall ships, over 10,000 knitters worked tirelessly to create an amazing 14,000 squares. In September

2008, it was handed over to the Prime Minister's wife, Sarah Brown, at Number 10.

Knitters all across the country helped make this possible. "While on my work placement at the Purley Park Trust, a residential home for adults with learning disabilities, I worked with two of the residents to complete some squares," says Julie from Reading. "We hope they will make a small difference to others less fortunate than ourselves."

The Hardwick Brownies from

Cambridgeshire also got their knitting needles working! "The girls were very excited to be doing something to help Oxfam's

“Knitters across the country made this possible”

appeal,” explains one of their leaders. “It’s part of the Guiding principle to think about others in the wider world, and this helped them appreciate that things are very hard going for some women.”

Each square represents a pregnant woman who would have survived to care for her baby, if she had received the medical care she needed. “We’d like to say a huge, heartfelt thank you to everyone who knitted a square for this giant petition,” says Oxfam Gender Advisor Sarah Blakemore.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

If you'd like to help, email Alice Delemare at Oxfam, adelemare@oxfam.org.uk or call ☎ 0113 3944293.

If emailing you will need to give details of:

- Your name
- group name if applicable (such as knitting circle/community group/Girl Guides)
- an address
- the number of blankets you are willing to sew together (each blanket will be 48 squares large).

Oxfam will then send you a bundle of squares, as well as instructions on how to sew them into a blanket. Finished blankets will need to be returned before the beginning of March – details will be sent in the instructions.

Following the exhibitions, the blankets will go on sale over the summer at festivals and in Oxfam shops. Everyone who has been involved in the campaign will be sent details about the exhibition of their blankets. Supporters can also keep an eye on the Oxfam website, www.oxfam.org.uk as details of the exhibitions and also information on how to purchase a blanket will be posted there in the near future.

Over 10,000 knitters made 14,000 squares to help Oxfam's campaign





Isata Sesay, 36, cares for Kadijatu Jemila Kamara, 2, her best friend Jemila's child.

Jemila gave birth to Kadijatu at a small private clinic. All went well, but 10 days later, Jemila's neighbours heard Kadijatu crying but Jemila wouldn't answer the door. They broke the lock and found that Jemila had died in her sleep. "Jemila always told me that if anything were to happen to her I was the only person she would trust to look after her children," says Isata. "One day, when Kadijatu's old enough, I'll tell her what happened to her real mother. I keep a framed picture of Jemila especially for this day."

Sierra Leone reportedly has the highest maternal mortality rate in the world.

"We've been simply overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of knitters in every nook and cranny of the UK."

Oxfam's Big Stitch-Up!

But, the good work doesn't stop there! Although knitted squares are no longer needed, you can now help sew the 14,000 knitted squares into blankets.

According to Sarah, continuing the campaign in this way is a perfect opportunity to keep the spotlight on the issue of maternal health, working to banish the needless death of women through childbirth. "Everyone can get involved in the fight against maternal mortality, especially members of knitting circles, or community or religious groups," Sarah explains.

The finished blankets will demonstrate just how much the

British public cares about the lives of mothers around the world.

They'll need to be sent back to Oxfam before the beginning of March, as they'll be displayed in exhibitions around the UK in time for International Women's Day on 8 March. Oxfam Campaigner Alice Delemare tells us: "This will further raise awareness of how poverty disproportionately affects women. It is also a great day for celebrating the way in which women are working together to overcome such poverty."

We are sure you will agree with Phyllis from East Sussex, who says: "Women deserve the very best while producing future generations." Every stitch of the blanket squares she sewed for Oxfam was full of this hope.

FIND OUT MORE!

- ★ For more information about Oxfam's Big Stitch Up: http://www.oxfam.org.uk/applications/blogs/campaigners/2008/12/knitters_needed_for_big_stitch.html
- ★ For more information about the campaign success: http://www.oxfam.org.uk/applications/blogs/campaigners/2008/10/14000_squares_2000_letters_and.html
- ★ Join the Facebook group - Oxfam Maternal Mortality Campaign: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=37878543538&ref=ts>
- ★ Pictures of all 14,000 squares together: http://www.flickr.com/groups/oxfam_squares/pool/

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giveaways

Freebies

This is your chance to win all of the goodies pictured here, so pop your entries in the post today!

Make It tickets

Building on the success of last year's Make It, this exciting craft show – with its breathtaking array of crafting ideas and supplies – is returning to Farnborough FIVE from 20-22 February 2009. There will be plenty on offer for knitters and crocheters, so you'd be mad to miss it! We have six pairs of tickets to give away to readers, worth £19 a pair. To order tickets or to find out more about the show, visit www.make-it.org.uk or call ☎ 0844 4771000.

Send your entry to: *Knit Today* 30 giveaway, Diane Henderson, Make It, 9-11 High Street, Staines, Middlesex TW18 4QY by 13 February 2009



Books, books, books

One incredibly lucky reader will be getting their hands on all of the books pictured here, worth a whopping £114! The prize includes *Beautiful Knits for Heads, Hands and Toes*, *Beautiful Crochet for Heads, Hands and Toes*, *Weekend Crochet for Babies*, *Knitted and Beaded Jewellery*, *Knitted Bears*, *Party Knits*, *Party Crochet*, *Knitted and Felted Toys* and *Simple Stylish Knits*. All the books are published by New Holland Publishers – find out more by visiting www.newhollandpublishers.com or calling ☎ 020 77247773.

Send your entry to: *Knit Today* book giveaway, New Holland Publishers, Garfield House, 86-88 Edgware Rd, London W2 2EA



Craft4Crafters tickets

Whether you're stocking up on supplies, searching for an elusive yarn, or in need of knitting inspiration, Telford's Craft4Crafters event promises to have something for you! The exhibition runs from 20-22 February 2009 at The International Centre, and we have 10 pairs of tickets to give away. To order tickets or to find out more, call ☎ 0117 9705006 or visit www.craft4crafters.co.uk

Send your entry to: *Craft4Crafters* giveaway, *Knit Today* 30, Origin Publishing, 9th Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN. The closing date is 13 February 2009



Patterns and yarn

A firm favourite with knitters and crafters for many years, Abakhan Fabrics is giving four fantastic prizes to lucky *Knit Today* readers, worth £25 each! Prizes contain 10 balls of Sirdar Frenzy, a pair of 8mm needles and 10 lovely Sirdar patterns. To find your nearest store, call ☎ 01745 562100 or visit www.abakhan.co.uk

Send your entry to: *Abakhan* giveaway, *Knit Today* 30, Origin Publishing, 9th Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN



HOW TO ENTER

Write your name, address and email address on a postcard and send to the address given. Closing date is 26 February 2009, unless otherwise stated. One entry per giveaway for each reader.

Winners will be drawn from a hat after the closing date. There are no cash alternatives. Employees of Origin Publishing and contributing companies are not permitted to enter. A list of winners' names is available on request. Origin Publishing and the companies featured may use your details to inform you of products or services that may be of interest to you. If you DO NOT wish to be contacted about these products or services please write 'no thanks' on your entry.

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THE FULL RANGE
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PATTERNS AT
OUR WEBSITE

www.artesano yarns.co.uk

artesano

This design
uses both
knitting
and *crochet*
techniques

Beautiful butterfly



Val Pierce has designed many soft toys and knits or crochets almost every day, working on new ideas and experimenting with different stitches and patterns

BY **Val Pierce**

If you've been wondering how to use up your oddments of yarn, here's an ideal project that will also be a perfect children's birthday gift

Although spring is still a little way off, there's no time like the present to give your yarn stash a clean up, and we've got the perfect project for you to try.

Working on Val Pierce's fantastic butterfly toy, with all of the colour possibilities in the design, will really brighten up a dark winter's day. It will surely put a smile on the face of a small child as well, which makes all the effort worthwhile.

Combined crafts

Those of you who are talented enough to knit and crochet will feel right at home with this project, as it uses techniques from both crafts. The head, body and wings are knitted, and the legs, feet, antennae and flower motifs are all

crocheted to give them a more delicate look. The crochet stitches used are all fairly basic, so don't be afraid to give this a try if you don't do much crochet – it's easier than it looks.

Making up the finished toy looks like it should be complicated, but it's really not. The head and body are knitted in one piece, and the wings are easy to sew up and attach to the body. Crocheted flowers neatly cover up the seams in the back. One really nice feature that Val has included in the design is that the crocheted legs are made in one piece that's then drawn through the middle of the body, so eager little fingers can't pull them out!

Perfect for babies

If you're making this for a baby and want to use a yarn that's easy on delicate skin, try Patons Fairytale Colour 4 Me, as we've done here. It's 100% wool, but very soft and machine washable. We've used six different shades from the range, but there are an exciting 17 more to choose from that include some colourful variegated tones for easy striping.



➔ turn over to start knitting



YARN

Patons Fairytale
Colour 4 Me DK

Content:

100% wool

Weight/Length:

50g/90m

Washing:

Machine wash 30°

RRP: £2.60

Patons

☎ 01325 394237

www.coatscrafts.co.uk



Flutter over to your yarn stash and pull out all of your oddments for this fun butterfly toy project

PATTERN
DETAILSYOU
WILL
NEED...

- ✓ 1 x 50g balls of Patons Colour 4 Me DK in each of the following shades: Orange, shade 4951, Green, shade 4952, Yellow, shade 4960, Purple, shade 4954, Red, shade 4981, Blue, shade 4957, Black, shade 4969
- ✓ 3.75mm (UK size 9) knitting needles
- ✓ 3.75mm (UK size 9) crochet hook
- ✓ Stitch holder
- ✓ Large eyed sewing needle
- ✓ Small amount of safety stuffing
- ✓ Two black beads for eyes

tension

Tension is not important on this particular project.

Finished butterfly measures approx. 23cm or 9in high, and 20cm or 8in across.

START
HERE!

BODY AND HEAD SECTIONS

Using 3.75mm needles and main shade, **cast on** 9 sts.

Beginning with a K row, work in st st for 2 rows.

Next row: Continuing in st st, inc 1 stitch at each end of the row.

Next row: Purl.

Join in contrast colour and continue in stripes of 2 rows contrast, 4 rows main, and at the same time inc 1 st at each end of every following 4th row until you have 21sts.

Next row: Purl.

Work 14 rows in stripe pattern.

Keeping the continuity of the stripe pattern, dec 1 st each end of the next row and every following 4th row until 13 sts remain.

Next row: Purl.

Leave this set of stitches on a stitch holder.

****Mark this row with a coloured thread for the end of body section.****

Work another piece as above.

Return to the set of stitches left on spare needle, and proceed to make head.

Make head

Using 3.75mm needles and a contrast colour of your choice, knit across both sets of 13 sts.

Next row: Purl 1 row on these 26 sts.

Next row: *K2, inc in next st*, all across row to last 2 sts, K2. (34 sts)

Next Row: Purl

Work a further 10 rows in st st.

Dec as follows:

Next row: *K2, k2tog* all across row, end with K2. (26 sts)

Next row: Purl

Next row: *K2, k2tog* all across row, end with K2. (20 sts)

Next row: Purl.

Next row: *K2, k2tog*, to end. (15 sts)

Next row: Purl.

Next row: K2tog across to last st, K1. (8 sts)

Next row: Purl.

Next row: K2tog all across row. (4 sts)

Next row: P4tog.

Fasten off.

LARGE WINGS
(MAKE FOUR, TWO IN EACH COLOUR)

Using 3.75mm needles and the colour of your choice, **cast on** 14 sts.

Work in st st for 4 rows.

Cast on 2 sts at beg of each row, 4 times. (22sts)

Inc 1 st each end of every alternate row until you have 28 sts.

Next row: Purl.

Continue in st st for a further 12 rows, ending on a purl row.

Row 1: K1, K1 sl1, pssso, work to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1.

Row 2: Purl

Row 3: As row 1.

Row 4: As row 2.

Cast off 3 sts at the beg of the next 2 rows. Cast off remaining 18 sts.

SMALL WINGS
(MAKE FOUR, TWO IN EACH COLOUR)

Using 3.75mm needles and the colour of your choice, **cast on** 12 sts and work in st st for 4 rows.

Cast on 2 sts at beg of each row, 4 times. (20 sts)

Inc 1 st each end of every alternate row until you have 24 sts.

Next row: Purl.

Continue in st st for a further 10 rows, ending with a purl row.

Row 1: K1, K1, sl1, pssso, work to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1.

Row 2: Purl.

Row 3: As row 1.

Row 4: As row 2.

Cast off 3 sts at the beg of the next 2 rows.

Cast off remaining 14 sts.

LEGS (MAKE THREE)

Using a 3.75mm hook and black yarn, crochet a chain approximately 12cm or 4¾in long.

Make a further 2 legs.

FEET (MAKE SIX)

Using a 3.75mm hook and chosen colour, make 3ch.

Work 10tr into the 2nd chain from the hook, and join with a sl st to first tr. This will form a little ball, break yarn but leave a long end. Thread this into a big eyed needle, then run the yarn all around the top of the ball, threading through the top of each ch. Pull up tightly and secure. Make a further five feet.

CROCHET FLOWERS (MAKE THREE)

Using a 3.75mm hook and chosen colour, make 6ch. Join into a ring with a sl st.

Next row: Into ring work * 1dc, 3ch* 6 times, join to first dc with a sl st.

Next row: Sl st into first 3ch space. Work * 1dc, 3ch, 3tr, 3ch, 1dc * into each space all around, join with a sl st.
Fasten off.

ANTENNAE

Using a 3.75mm hook and black yarn, make a chain approximately 8cm or 3in long, fasten off.

Making up

Work all ends in neatly.

Begin with body and head section. With right sides of work facing, and using the appropriate coloured yarns, join side seams and head seams. Leave the cast on end sections open to allow you to turn the work to the right side. Stuff the piece, using a small amount of stuffing at a time begin to stuff the head, and then the body. Make sure the head is quite firmly stuffed. Stitch up the end section neatly. Thread a needle with matching yarn and run the yarn all around the base of the head section where it

joins the body. Weave in and out of the stitches, and pull the yarn tightly to form a rounded head. Fasten off securely. Do the same thing on the body section about halfway down, using the photograph as a guide. This will separate the body into two sections.

Take the antennae and, using a crochet hook, pull the piece through the top of the head from side to side, using the photo as a guide. Make sure the two ends are equal length, then secure them onto the head. Roll each end of the antennae into a small circle and secure.

Using some black yarn, sew eyes and a mouth onto the face, using the photo as a guide. Take the leg pieces and thread through the upper body section as you did with the antennae, spacing them equally on the centre body section. Make sure they are all equal in length, then secure them firmly. Stitch a foot very firmly onto the end of each leg.

Take a pair of wings and, with right sides facing inside, neatly seam them together leaving the cast on edges open to enable you to lightly stuff each wing. Turn right sides out, stuff and shape – don't fill them too much, just enough to give a nice shape. Seam end to close. Do this on the other three pairs of wings. Next, stitch together in pairs the large wings and the small wings. Join the two pairs of wings together, as shown in the photograph, and attach them firmly to the butterfly's body at the centre back. Stitch two crochet flowers in the centre back of the wings, and one crochet flower on the top of one of the front wings.



ABBREVIATIONS

beg	beginning
ch	chain
cm	centimetre(s)
dc	double crochet
dec	decrease
in	inch(es)
inc	increase
K	knit
P	purl
sl	slip a stitch
sl st	slip stitch (crochet)
st(s)	stitch(es)
st st	stocking stitch
tr	treble

Next month

Knit your little girl a stylish dress designed with a geometric pattern – it has short sleeves, so it will be the perfect thing to wear as the weather starts to get warmer!

On sale 26 February 2009





Diane Hollands brings you six of the best patterns for men's sweaters and cardigans

Best patterns

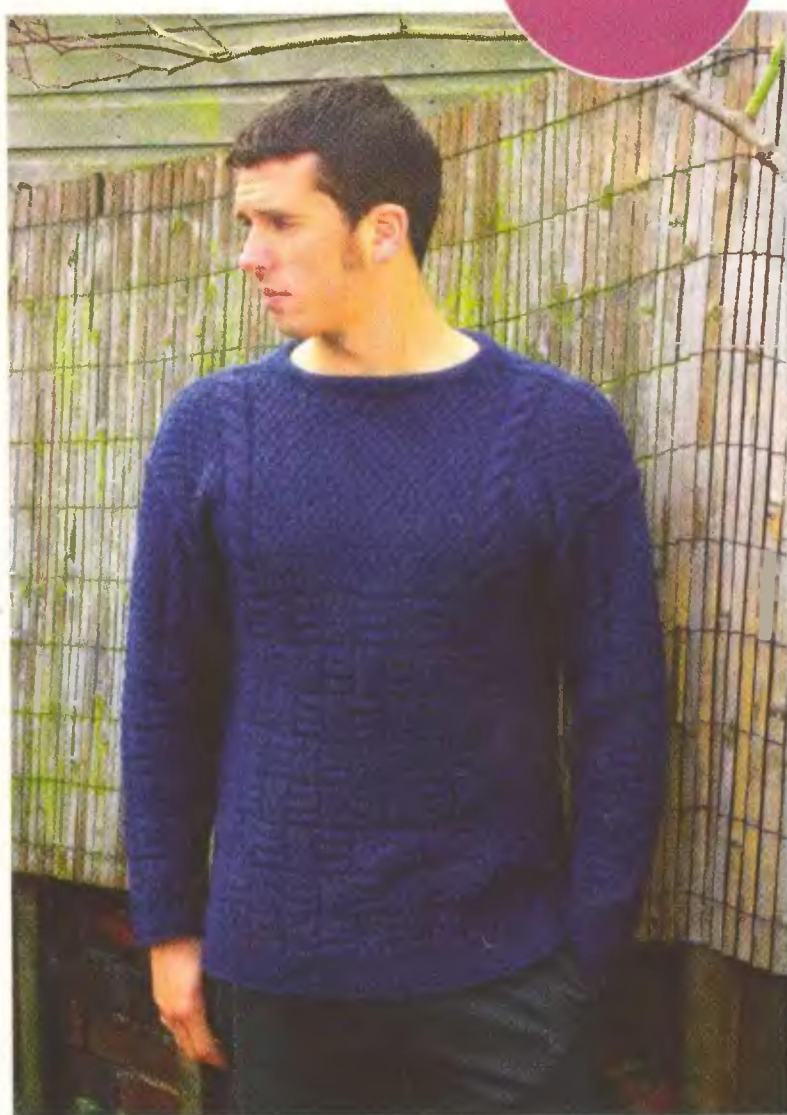
These six stylish sweaters are sure to go down a treat with men of all ages, so get out your needles and yarn, and choose one to spoil someone you love with

Trying to think of a gift idea for a man – why not send your love with a knitted sweater? It's perfect for Valentine's Day and will show him how much you care. Plus, what could be more romantic than the fact that every time he wears it, he'll think of you? Once you've decided that a sweater's the right gift to give, there are lots of different styles to choose from. We're making it easy for you with six of our favourite patterns for sweaters and cardigans – there's something for knitters of all abilities to try. Don't forget that you can personalise the design by choosing a shade of yarn that you think he'll enjoy wearing.

“Knit a sweater, and every time he wears it, he'll think of you!”

Trust by Sue Hanmore

This Guernsey-style jumper can be worn for any occasion, and is ideal for days in the country. It's worked in Artesano Aran, a beautifully soft yarn that's very stable to knit with. It's a comfortable blend of 50% alpaca and 50% Peruvian highland wool, and you'll need between 9-11 hanks to knit a sweater to fit a 91-112cm or 36-44in chest. Hanks are priced at £6.95 per 100g. The jumper pictured here is knitted in Midnight, though there are 15 other colours in the range to choose from if you'd like to try a different one. You'll also need a pair of 4mm and 5mm needles, and cable needles. This pattern is recommended for intermediate knitters because it uses a small amount of cable, but the rest of the design is worked in knit and purl combinations. Purchase the pattern for £2.50.



BEST FOR STYLE

Visit www.artesanoyarns.co.uk or call ☎ 0118 9503350 to find an Artesano stockist near you.

Sirdar Men's Sweater 8992

Round-neck or V-neck? The choice is yours with this easy-knit pattern, which provides instructions for both collar styles. The sweater is worked in Peru Naturals yarn, which is made up from a collection of space-dyed shades, all inspired by the landscapes and textures of Peru. Knitting beginners will love the yarn's self-striping quality, making the simple pattern look much more difficult than it is. Shade names include Lima (which is used on the round-neck sweater above) and Sable (used on the V-neck). The yarn comes in 50g balls and is a blend of 64% wool, 31% acrylic and 5% alpaca. You'll need 8-11 balls of Peru Naturals to knit a sweater with a chest measurement of 96.5-122cm or 38-48in, a pair of 5.5mm and 6.5mm knitting needles and a stitch holder. The pattern costs around £2.35.



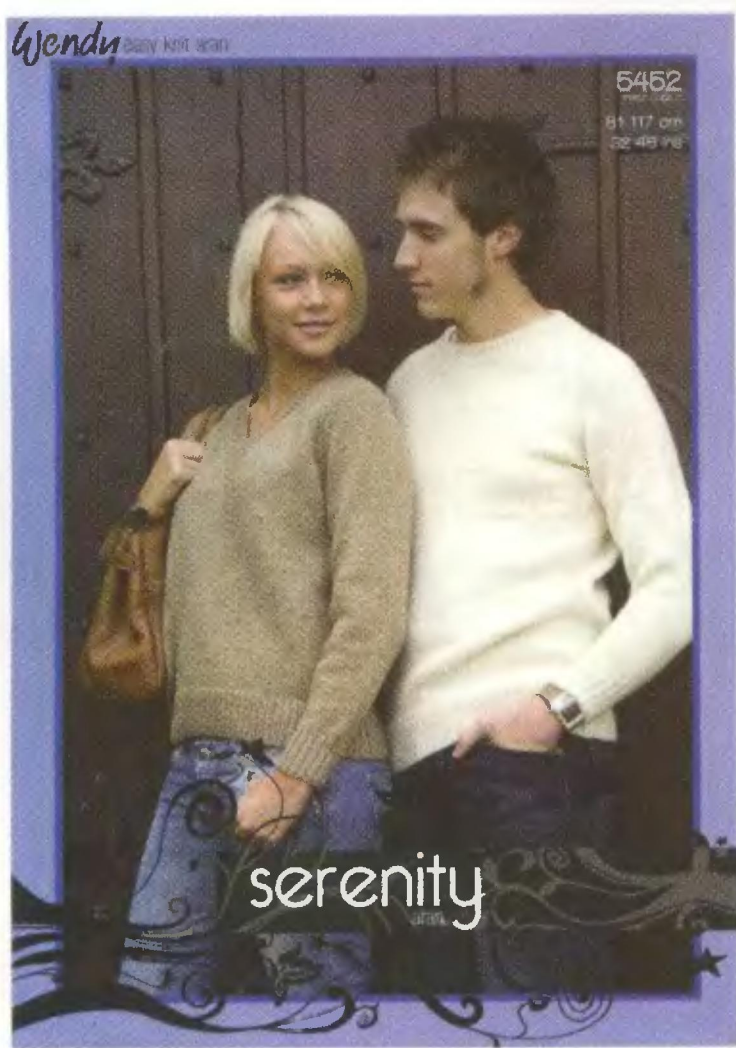
KNIT TODAY loves

Easy Knit

To find a local stockist, visit www.sirdar.co.uk or telephone ☎ 01924 231682 for more information

Wendy Raglan sweater

This handy leaflet includes two patterns for easy-to-knit sweaters – one for him and one for her – worked in Wendy Serenity, a 70% acrylic, 20% alpaca and 10% wool yarn. It's machine washable, so is perfect to use for this everyday sweater design as it will be a garment that's easy to care for and maintain. The man's round-necked sweater is a straightforward, classic design, worked in the Cork shade. There are lots of other colours to choose from in the Wendy Serenity range, so even if this one isn't his cup of tea, you're sure to find one that is. The pattern uses five to six 100g balls for a short version of the sweater, and six to seven for a longer style. It's brought to life in simple stitches, so it's a perfect project for knitting newbies. You'll find the pattern on sale for around £2.40.



To find a local stockist, visit www.tbramsden.co.uk or call ☎ 01943 872264 for more information

Empathy by Sue Hanmore

Knit him something that's cosy enough to wear when relaxing, and smart enough to add a layer of warmth at formal occasions. This practical cardigan is a project for experienced knitters, worked in a cable pattern, along with standard knit and purl stitches. It's knitted in Artesano Aran, which is well suited to men's garments – the 50% wool content keeps the yarn light so that larger items, like this cardigan, keep their shape. This particular photo shows the cardigan worked in the Ash shade. Use 12-14 hanks of the yarn, along with 3.75mm and 5mm needles and cable needles, to knit the cardigan for chest sizes 86-107cm or 34-44in. A 100g hank of Artesano Aran costs £6.95, and you can purchase this pattern for £2.50.



Visit www.artesanoyarns.co.uk or call ☎ 0118 9503350 to find an Artesano stockist near you

Oxford Stripe by Martin Storey

This classic crew neck sweater comes from Rowan's Classic Alpaca brochure, which contains 17 garments and accessories to knit for men and women. This Oxford sweater is knitted in a traditional stripe technique, using simple knit and purl stitches. Beginners can try this design, brought to life in Rowan Baby Alpaca DK, a beautiful 100% alpaca yarn offering the ultimate in luxury. The brown shade has been discontinued, but Tangier will look just as good – log on to www.knitrowan.com to decide for yourself. Jacob (cream) is still available. There's a ladies' Oxford sweater pattern in the brochure too, so you can even knit up a his-and-hers set! Rowan's Classic Alpaca brochure costs £6.95.



Visit www.knitrowan.com or call ☎ 01484 681881 to find your nearest local stockist

Fair Isle Sweater by Wendy Baker

This design is from Rowan's *Scottish Inspirations* book by Sarah Dallas, with Wendy Baker and Catherine Tough. It's a pattern for intermediate knitters to get their teeth into – the Fair Isle technique and twisted rib cabling make it a fun and interesting challenge, but one that's probably too difficult for beginners to attempt. The sweater is worked in three shades of Scottish Tweed DK – Storm Grey, Lewis Grey and Grey Mist. Scottish Tweed DK is made from 100% wool and comes in a range of other wholesome, heathery colours. There are 17 other traditional patterns in the book, for both men and women, so have a look if you like the style of the design here. You can purchase a copy of *Scottish Inspirations* for yourself for £12.99.



Visit www.knitrowan.com for more details or ring ☎ 01484 681881 to find a stockist near you



Elizabeth Leight
has tracked down
some inspirational and
engrossing reads for
you to enjoy this month

Book reviews

When it's cold outside, settle in with one of our recommended reads for February and line up enough projects to keep you busy for the rest of the winter

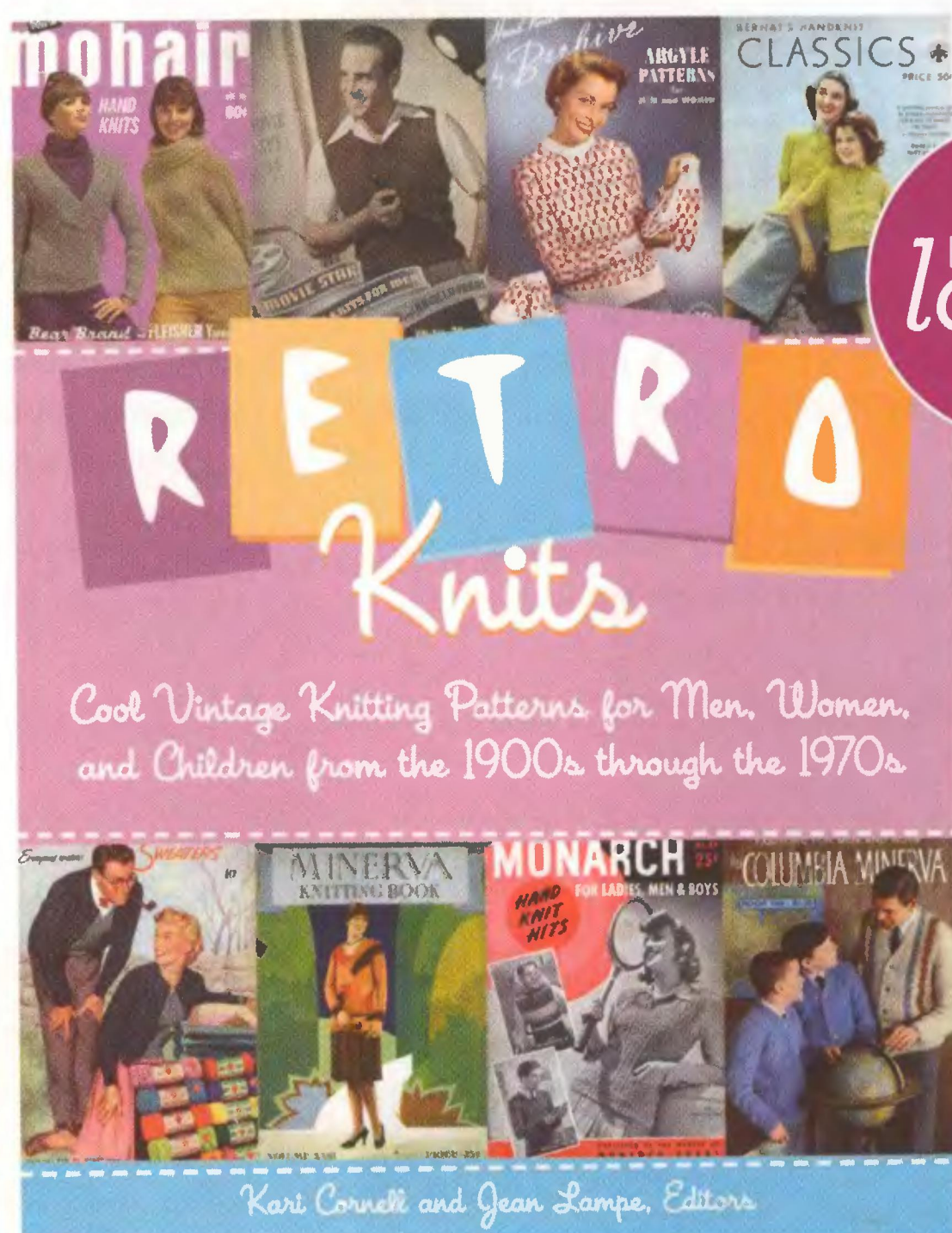
Retro knits

Cool vintage patterns for men, women and children from the 1900s through the 1970s.

Edited by Kari Cornell and Jean Lampe

There is a growing interest in knitwear that emulates vintage styles, which can be seen on the high street as well as in knitting pattern books. Why not simply go back to the patterns published during those eras? *Retro Knits* is the answer – a collection of popular designs spanning eight decades, updated only lightly to include our current needle sizes and yarn weights. Grouped in chronological order, the array of patterns gives you an interesting look at how knitted fashion has developed as well as eminently stylish pieces to add to your project list.

Published by Voyageur Press, hardback, 160 pages, ISBN 978-0-7603-2977-1, £14.99



SPECIAL OFFER!

Call Grantham Book Services on ☎ 01476 541080 and quote 'Retro Knits' to order this book at the special price of **£12.99!** Free p&p is also available to readers in the UK. Normal delivery time is five working days. Offer ends 28 February.

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Socks

by Chrissie Day

This is a wonderful book, full of fantastic feet treats from a designer with a lifelong passion for knitting. There are 30 design ideas to suit every style and ability – from high socks to ankle socks, men's socks and sports socks to children's socks and baby booties, as well as stripy, cabled and felted socks. The techniques involved require some knit knowledge – all the projects use double-pointed or circular needles, while some use Fair Isle colour changing and square heels. Don't worry though – there's a handy section at the back with clear diagrams and all the know-how you'll need. Seasoned sock knitters will be spoilt for choice with all the different colours, yarns and lacy patterns. If you've never knitted socks before, the detailed instructions and



variety of inspiration will have you reaching for your needles in no time!

Published by the Guild of Master Craftsman Publications, paperback, 156 pages, ISBN 978-1-86108-616-7, £9.99

Knitted cakes

by Susan Penny

Designs so delicious, you'll want to eat them! The perfect treat for chocoholics, cake-lovers and knitters with a sense of humour, this little book is big on ideas for knitting delicious, fat-free desserts. The cake on the cover is just the start – look inside and you'll find designs for cupcakes, swiss roll, Viennese whirls, wedding cake, and fruit tart if you're on a diet! The techniques used are very easy, which is just as well because there is no technique section. Each project is quick to knit and make up, and lots of fun to finish off with beads, buttons and ribbon. They're brilliant for using up oddments of yarn, and perfect for knitters looking for something a bit unusual – if you can stop drooling long enough to knit them!

Published by Search Press, paperback, 48 pages, ISBN 978-1-84448-361-7, £4.99



SPECIAL OFFER!

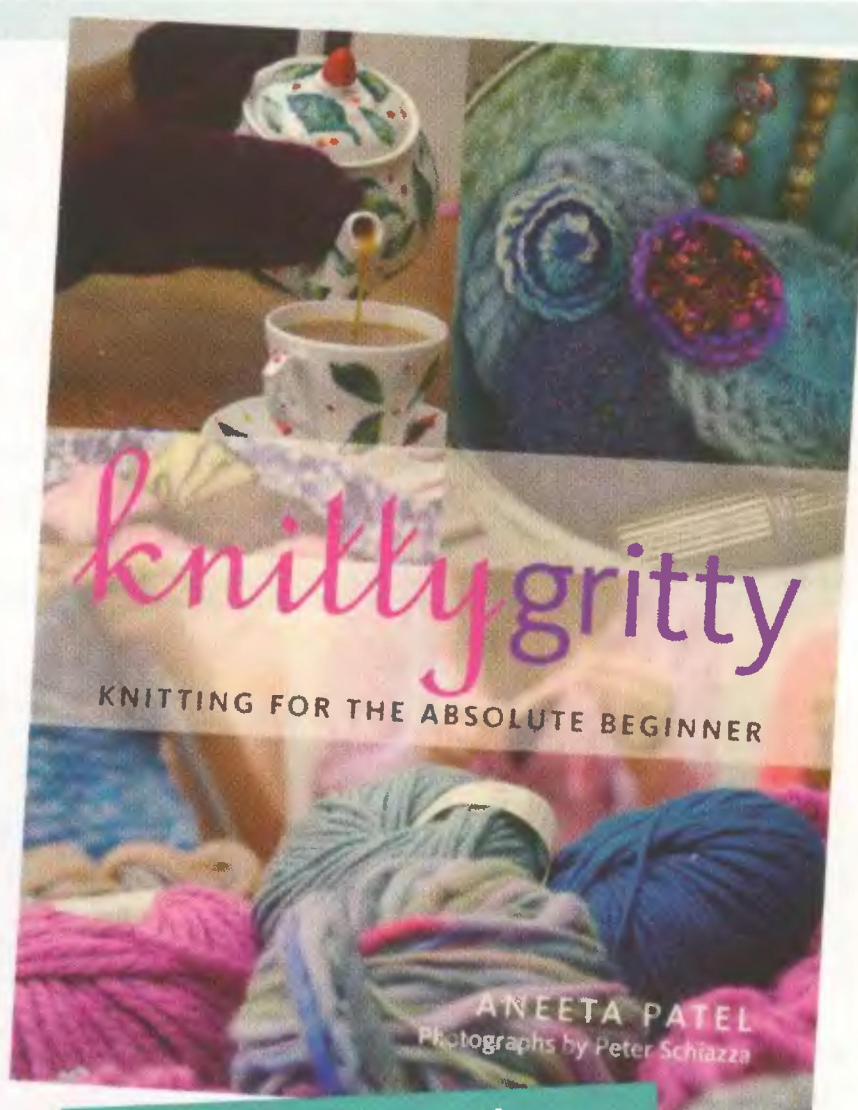
Call ☎ 01892 510850 and quote 'Knit Today issue 30' to order *Knitted Cakes* at the special price of £3.99, plus free p&p (UK only)!

Knitty gritty

Knitting for the absolute beginner, by Aneeta Patel

A truly brilliant resource for new knitters, this book is also a very handy technique reference guide for those with a bit more experience. The step-by-step guides break down even the trickiest skills into manageable chunks to make them seem easy, enabling knitters of all abilities to create 16 fantastic projects. Start off slow, with a simple scarf and baby booties, before moving up to a cardigan, cabled bag and mittens, with helpful pictures and hints along the way to check you're doing it right. There are also practical guides to mending mistakes, and answers to typical beginner questions. But best of all, there's plenty of encouragement throughout to maintain your enthusiasm and get better and better with practice.

Published by A&C Black, paperback, 128 pages, ISBN 978-0-7136-8542-8, £14.99



SPECIAL OFFER!

Readers can order a copy at the special price of £12.99, with free p&p on UK orders! Call ☎ 01256 302699 and quote code GLR 100.

Collapse weave

Creating three-dimensional cloth,

by Anne Field

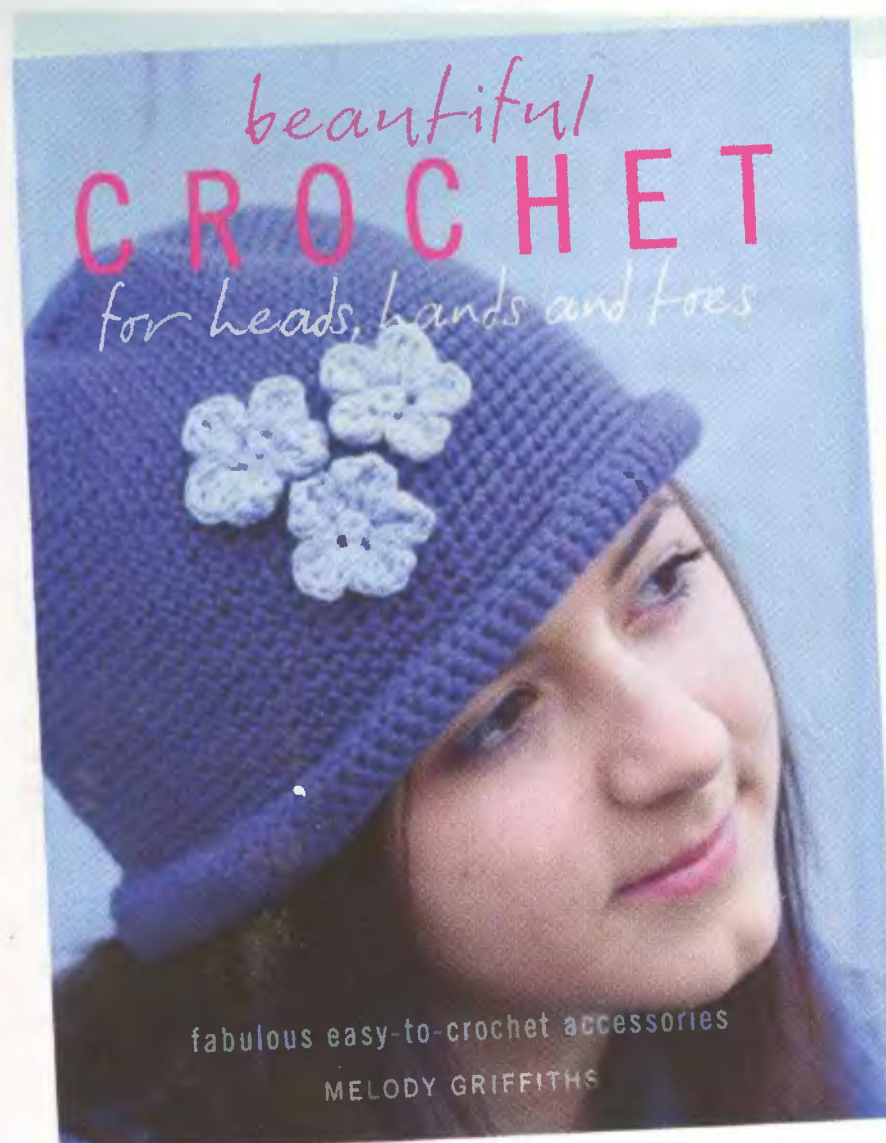
Crafters with an interest in the artistic and unique will love the opportunity to learn about collapse weave. The technique produces gorgeous fabrics that are deliberately pleated or puckered – you'd normally try to avoid this when weaving a flat fabric, but these imperfections can give singular and stunning results. Thorough technical details are illustrated with both pictures and projects to help give you a start at experimenting with collapse weave. New and experienced weavers alike will come away from this book with a new approach to their work, and a wealth of inspiration for future projects.

Published by A&C Black, paperback, 160 pages, ISBN 978-1-4081-0628-0, £19.99



SPECIAL OFFER!

Readers can order a copy at the special price of £17.99, with free p&p on UK orders! Call ☎ 01256 302699 and quote code GLR 100.



Beautiful crochet

for heads, hands and toes, by Melody Griffiths

The creative talent behind numerous other knit and crochet books, Melody Griffiths's latest offering is just as good. You'll be guided through making various crochet accessories, including some fab hats, versatile wraps, and pretty fingerless gloves. Each design is a practical classic that's been given a modern twist to make it irresistible – the contemporary colours, fashionable cuts and elegant motifs will add instant style to your outfit, while also keeping you warm! The book is divided into four colour sections: cream, grey, natural and blue, with

other colours brought in as accents, which you can change to suit you. The 10-page technique section has diagrams and detailed instructions so even if you've never crocheted before, there's everything you need to get started.

Published by New Holland Publishers, hardback, 112 pages, ISBN 978-1-84773-287-3, £14.99

SPECIAL OFFER!

To order a copy of this book for the special price of £12.99 (including free UK p&p), call ☎ 01476 541080, quoting the book title and code NHBC/02.



Diane Hollands shares her favourite chenille yarns with you, so you can create soft and cosy knits

Chenille yarns

Chenille yarn is a popular choice for cosy sweaters, cuddly cushions and blankets to snuggle up in, and can transform something simple into something special

Chenille is the French word for caterpillar, though it's used to describe a fabric or yarn. It's often made using cotton, but can also be made from acrylic, rayon and olefin (polypropylene). Chenille yarns have been commercially produced since the 1970s, using a unique – and difficult – manufacturing process. Short lengths of fabric, also called piles, are wrapped around a strong and very tightly wound core of yarn. The pile sticks out from the core and, when knitted, creates a fabric that reflects light differently when viewed from various directions. This, along with its sumptuous softness, is one of the unique and very desirable traits of this yarn. It can sometimes look iridescent, even if it

doesn't contain any iridescent material.

When knitting with chenille, it's best to determine which way the pile lies before you cast on. To do this, pull a strand of yarn from the centre of the ball and run your fingers up and down it – one direction will feel smooth and the other, rough. If it feels smooth when you're moving your hand towards the ball, cast on with this end. If it's rough, cast on with the end of the yarn from the outside of the ball. Chenille is a delicate yarn and, in order to prevent pile loss, it's recommended that you knit using a relatively tight stitch. For better results with shaping, it's also a good idea to knit chenille together with a finer supporting yarn.

Crystal Palace Cotton Chenille

Crystal Palace Cotton Chenille is velvety-soft. It can be used for a number of projects, as it knits up well in basic stitches. It's also suited to textured cabling, and combines well with other speciality yarns, such as Crystal Palace Whisper, for wonderful effects. It's ideal for sensitive skin, making it a wise choice when knitting baby blankets, children's garments and accessories such as scarves. Check out the Kangaroo website for some great free patterns.



To order, go online to
www.kangaroo.uk.com or call
01273 400030



Content: 100% cotton
Weight/length:
50g/90m
Needle size: 4-4.5mm
Shade shown: Celery
(shade 2615)
Wash: Handwash
RRP: £3.75

Wendy Velvet Touch

'Touch it, feel it, love it'. That's what it says on the packaging of this yarn, and it's something that we at *Knit Today* would second! This Aran weight ribbon yarn is fluffy and cosy, and you can use it to create comfortable knits for all ages, all year round. It's also machine washable and tumble dryable, so is practical as well. This range includes a choice of traditional baby pastels and blends, and some very bright and stylish shades. It produces a tension of 19 stitches and 30 rows to 10cm or 4in square, on 4mm needles.



For stockists, visit
www.tbramsden.co.uk or call 01943 872264



Content: 100% nylon
Weight/length:
50g/105m
Needle size: 3.75-4.25
Shade shown: Sky
Velvet (shade 1284)
Wash: Machine wash
40°
RRP: £2.99

King Cole Svelte

King Cole Svelte is a fun yarn, and its construction makes for a strong, hard wearing, yet luxuriant fabric, with a soft pile finish. The make-up of the yarn also lends itself well to dyeing techniques, and it's available in plain shades as well as shaded colours (like the one pictured here).

Visit www.kingcole.co.uk or call ☎ 01535 650230 to find your local stockist



Content: 100% polyester

Weight/length: 100g/92m

Needle size: 6.5mm

Shade shown: Pinks (shade 380)

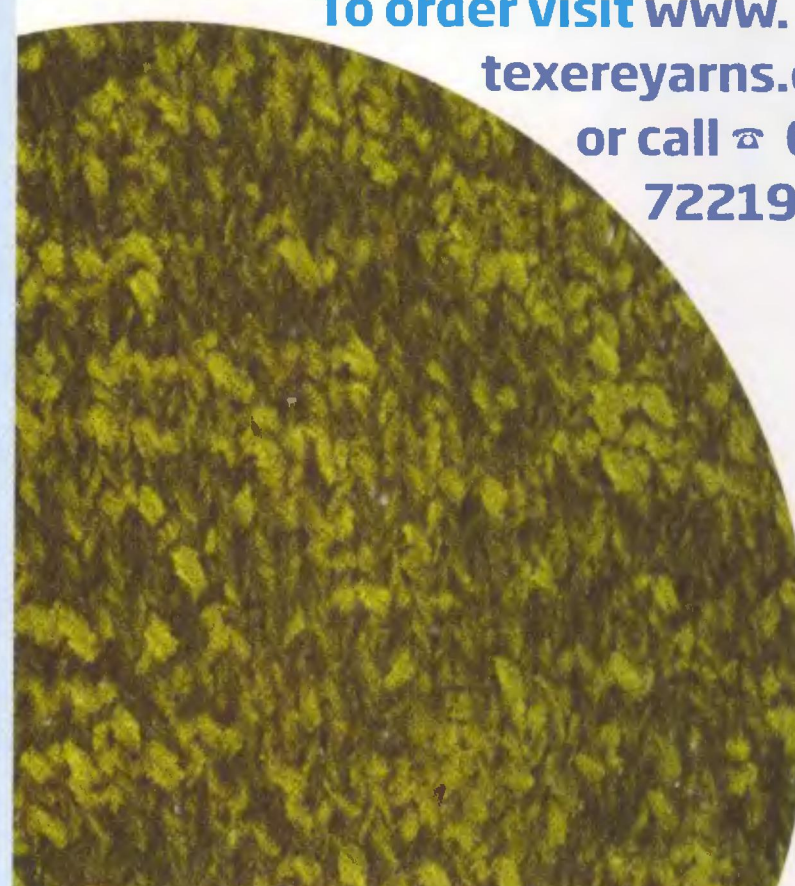
Wash: Machine wash 40°

RRP: £2.45-2.85

Texere Paradise Chenille

This soft and lustrous 4-ply acrylic chenille is perfect for knitting by hand or on a standard gauge machine. You can also use it to add a velvety feel to weaving and tassels. Five 100g cones should knit a garment to fit a 91.5-96.5cm or 36-38in chest. There's a special offer running on the yarn at the moment, where you can order five 100g cones for £10 – a saving of £4.50! As with all chenilles, avoid hanging your finished item, to help prevent it from stretching out of shape.

To order visit www.texereyarns.co.uk or call ☎ 01274 722191



Content: 100% acrylic

Weight/length: 100g/350m

Needle size: 3.75mm

Shade shown: Moss (shade 1367)

Wash: Cool handwash

RRP: £2.85

Wendy Peter Pan Cupcake

Every newborn deserves the best in knitted garments, and this deliciously named yarn has been designed especially for babies. It is equally wonderful for hats, scarves, sweaters and more, and for those who appreciate the soft and the snugly! It comes in a range of scrumptious shades, both solids and yarns with attractive colour slash effects. Use 4.5mm needles to knit a 10cm or 4in tension square of 26 stitches and 19 rows.

Visit www.tbramsden.co.uk or call ☎ 01943 872264 to find a stockist



Content: 50% acrylic, 50% nylon

Weight/length: 50g/90m

Needle size: 4.5mm

Shade shown: Sugar Frosting (shade 804)

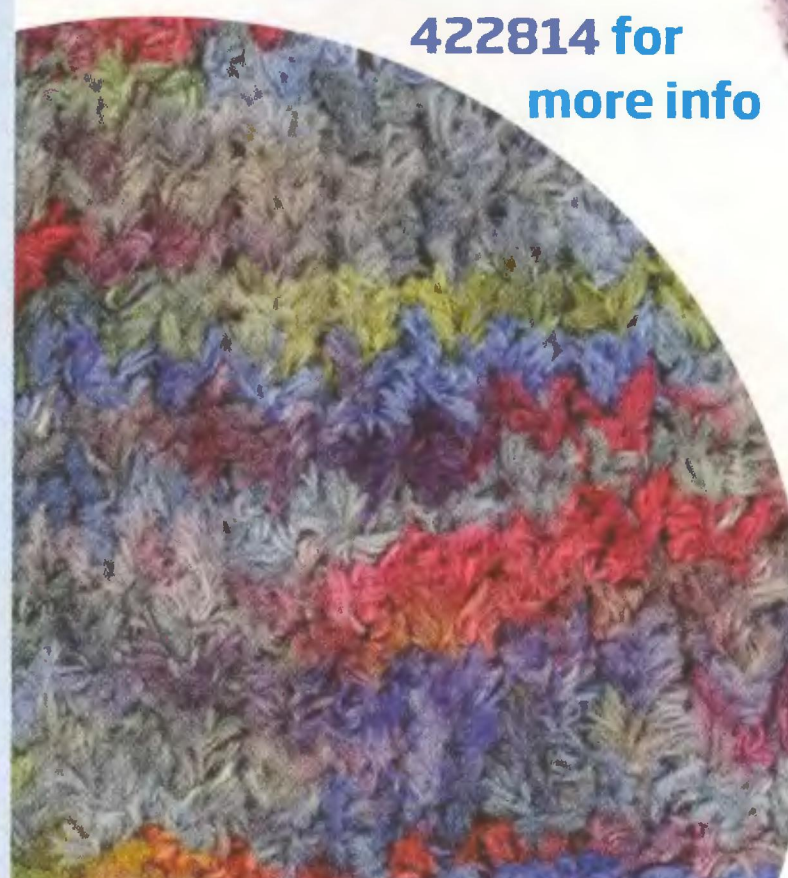
Wash: Machine wash 40°

RRP: £1.96

Colinette Fandango

This long pile yarn is so soft and full of character. The added beauty of it is that each hank is individually dyed, which will give every garment you knit a great deal of individuality. However, if you want your project to have a relatively even blend of colour throughout, it's advisable to knit from two hanks at a time – two rows from one and then two from the other. It knits up really quickly on 7-11mm needles, so you'll see your project come to life in next-to-no time!

Visit www.craftywoolshop.co.uk or call ☎ 01929 422814 for more info



Content: 100% cotton

Weight/length: 100g/100m

Needle size: 7mm

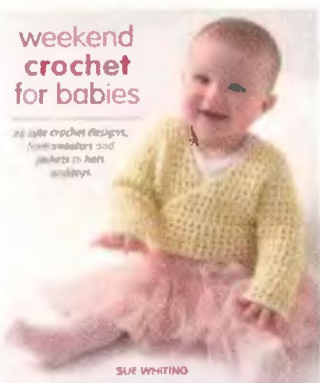
Shade shown: Blue Parrot (shade 16)

Wash: Handwash

RRP: £6

Crochet this in
*one
weekend!*

Chunky coat



Designer and author Sue Whiting is a crochet expert, and has created needlework patterns for a number of textile companies

BY *Sue Whiting*

Thick yarn and minimal seams make this hooded coat pattern a breeze to crochet, meaning you'll have it done in no time!

Your little baby is growing quickly, and it can be hard to keep up clothes-wise. Warm clothes are a necessity, however, and this pattern is just the thing for a

little one who keeps getting bigger, as you can crochet it in a weekend! Unwrap your first ball of yarn on Friday night, and you'll be sewing the buttons on by Sunday afternoon, with your little one snuggling into his or her brand new jacket on Monday morning.

Big wool comfort

The wildfire trend of making items in super chunky wool is still going strong, and Rowan's Big Wool is a firm favourite among knitters who love this

style. It can be hard to find wool for babies because there are many that would be too rough, but Big Wool's 100% merino wool content is soft on your little baby's skin and will keep him or her extra warm.

This crocheted jacket pictured here is made for a baby girl, but Big Wool comes in plenty of shades suitable for boys too. Pick your favourite from the 20 colours available, from deep red Bohemian (shade 028), soft grey Blue Velvet (shade 026), bright purple Wild Berry (shade 025), or pumpkin-coloured Burnt Orange (shade 051).

Clever construction

Using chunky wool and a 7mm crochet hook, the coat will start to form before you know it. Those of you who don't like the making up stage of garments will especially love this pattern – it's designed so the only parts you need to sew up are the underarm seams, and then attach the buttons to the front. These minimal seams as well as the dense double crochet the coat is worked in will give baby a comfortable, warm coat to wear.

➔ turn over to start knitting



YARN

Rowan Big Wool

Content:
100% merino wool

Weight/Length:
100g/80m

Washing:
Hand wash
RRP: £7.50

Rowan,
☎ 01484 681881,
www.knitrowan.com





Crochet this pretty coat to
keep your little one warm

PATTERN
DETAILS



YOU
WILL
NEED...

- ✓ Rowan Big Wool in Glamour shade 036, as listed in sizing guide
- ✓ 7mm crochet hook
- ✓ 3 buttons

tension

Yarn used crochets as super chunky to the following tension:

9 sts and 10 rows to 10cm or 4in measured over pattern, using 7mm hook. Change hook size if necessary to obtain this tension.

ABBREVIATIONS

alt	alternate
ch	chain
cm	centimetre(s)
dc	double crochet
dc2tog	double crochet 2 together
foll	following
in	inch(es)
patt	pattern
rem	remaining
rep	repeat
RS	right side
sl st	slip stitch
st(s)	stitch(es)
WS	wrong side

START
HERE!

BODY (WORKED IN ONE PIECE TO
ARMHOLES)

With 7mm hook, make 61 (72: 81: 92) ch.
Row 1 (RS): 1dc into 2nd ch from hook, 1dc into each ch to end, turn. 60 (71: 80: 91) sts.
Row 2: 1ch (does NOT count as st), 1dc into each st to end, turn.
This row forms patt. Work 2 rows.
Row 5: 1ch (does NOT count as st), 1dc into each of first 8 (9: 9: 10) dc, dc2tog over next 2 dc, (1dc into each of next 12 (15: 18: 21) dc, dc2tog over next 2 dc) 3 times, 1dc into each of last 8 (9: 9: 10) dc, turn. 56 (67: 76: 87) sts.
Work 3 rows.
Row 9: 1ch (does NOT count as st), 1dc into each of first 6 (7: 7: 11) dc, dc2tog over next 2 dc, (1dc into each of next 12 (15: 18: 19) dc, dc2tog over next 2 dc) 3 times, 1dc into each of last 6 (7: 7: 11) dc, turn. 52 (63: 72: 83) sts. Work 3 rows.
Row 13: 1ch (does NOT count as st), 1dc into each of first 7 (8: 8: 9) dc, dc2tog over next 2 dc, (1dc into each of next 10 (13: 16: 19) dc, dc2tog over next 2 dc) 3 times, 1dc into each of last 7 (8: 8: 9) dc, turn. 48 (59: 68: 79) sts.

2nd, 3rd and 4th sizes only
Work 3 rows.

Row 17: 1ch (does NOT count as st), 1dc into each of first (6: 6: 10) dc, dc2tog over next 2 dc, (1dc into each of next (13: 16: 17) dc, dc2tog over next 2 dc) 3 times, 1dc into each of last (6: 6: 10) dc, turn. (55: 64: 75) sts.

3rd and 4th sizes only
Work 3 rows.



Row 21: 1ch (does NOT count as st), 1dc into each of first (7: 8) dc, dc2tog over next 2 dc, (1 dc into each of next (14: 17) dc, dc2tog over next 2 dc) 3 times, 1dc into each of last (7: 8) dc, turn. (60: 71) sts.

4th size only
Work 3 rows.

Row 25: 1ch (does NOT count as st), 1dc into each of first 9 dc, dc2tog over next 2 dc, (1dc into each of next 15 dc, dc2tog over next 2 dc) 3 times, 1dc into each of last 9 dc, turn. 67 sts.

All sizes
Work 3 (4: 5: 4) rows on rem 48 (55: 60: 67) sts, ending with RS (WS: RS: WS) facing for next row. Break yarn.

SLEEVES (MAKE TWO)

With 7mm hook, make 12 (13: 14: 15) ch and join with a sl st to form a ring.
Round 1 (RS): 1ch (does NOT count as st), 1 dc into each ch to end, sl st to first dc, turn. 12

SIZING GUIDE (MONTHS)		0-3	3-6	6-12	12-18
TO FIT CHEST	in	16	18	20	22
	cm	41	46	51	56
ACTUAL SIZE	in	18	21¼	23½	26¼
	cm	46	54	60	67
LENGTH	in	11	13¾	15¾	17¾
	cm	28	34	40	44
SLEEVE LENGTH	in	4¾	6	7¾	9
	cm	12	15	20	23
NUMBER OF BALLS		4	5	5	6

(13:14:15) sts.

Note: You must turn at the end of every round so that the sleeve fabric matches the body fabric.

Round 2: 1ch (does NOT count as st), 1dc into each dc to end, sl st to first dc, turn.

This round forms patt.

Round 3: 1ch (does NOT count as st), 2dc into first dc – 1 st increased, 1dc into each dc to last dc, 2dc into last dc – 1 st increased, sl st to first dc, turn. 14 (15:16:17) sts.

Working all increases as set by last round, inc 1 st at each end of 2nd (2nd: 3rd: 3rd) and foll 3 (1:0:0) alt rounds, then on 0 (2:4:2) foll 3rd rounds, then on 0 (0:0:2) foll 4th rounds. 22 (23:26:27) sts.

Work 1 (2:2:3) rounds, ending with RS (WS: RS: WS) facing for next round.

Break yarn.

Yoke

With RS (WS: RS: WS) facing and 7mm hook, rejoin yarn to last st of last row of body and join body and sleeves as follows:

Row 1: 1ch (does NOT count as st), 1 dc into each of first 11 (13:14:16) dc of body, miss first 2 dc of next round of first sleeve, 1dc into each of next 18 (19:22:23) dc of sleeve, miss last 2 dc of sleeve and next 4 dc of body, 1dc into each of next 18 (21:24:27) dc of body, miss first 2 dc of next round of second sleeve, 1dc into each of next 18 (19:22:23) dc of sleeve, miss last 2 dc of sleeve and next 4 dc of body, 1dc into each of last 11 (13:14:16) dc of body, turn. 76 (85:96:105) sts.

Row 2: 1ch (does NOT count as st), 1dc into each of first 11 (13:14:14) dc, *(dc2tog over next 2 dc) 1 (1:1:2) times, 1dc into each of next 14 (15:18:19) dc, (dc2tog over next 2 dc) 1 (1:1:2) times*, 1dc into each of next 18 (21:24:23) dc, rep from * to * once more, 1dc into each of last 11 (13:14:14) dc, turn. 72 (81:92:97) sts.

Row 3: 1ch (does NOT count as st), 1dc into each of first 11 (13:12:15) dc, *(dc2tog over next 2 dc) 1 (1:2:1) times, 1dc into each of next 12 (13:16:17) dc, (dc2tog over next 2 dc) 1 (1:2:1) times*, 1dc into each of next 18 (21:20:25) dc, rep from * to * once more, 1dc into each of last 11 (13:12:15) dc, turn. 68 (77:84:93) sts.

Row 4: 1ch (does NOT count as st), 1dc into each of first 9 (11:13:13) dc, *(dc2tog over next 2 dc) 2 (2:1:2) times, 1dc into each of next 10 (11:14:15) dc, (dc2tog over next 2 dc) 2 (2:1:2) times*, 1dc into each of next

14 (17:22:21) dc, rep from * to * once more, 1dc into each of last 9 (11:13:13) dc, turn. 60 (69:80:85) sts.

Row 5: 1ch (does NOT count as st), 1dc into each of first 10 (12:11:14) dc, *(dc2tog over next 2 dc) 1 (1:2:1) times, 1dc into each of next 8 (9:12:13) dc, (dc2tog over next 2 dc) 1 (1:2:1) times*, 1 dc into each of next 16 (19:18:23) dc, rep from * to * once more, 1dc into each of last 10 (12:11:14) dc, turn. 56 (65:72:81) sts.

Row 6: 1ch (does NOT count as st), 1dc into each of first 10 (10:12:12) dc, *(dc2tog over next 2 dc) 1 (2:1:2) times, 1dc into each of next 6 (7:10:11) dc, (dc2tog over next 2 dc) 1 (2:1:2) times*, 1dc into each of next 16 (15:20:19) dc, rep from * to * once more, 1dc into each of last 10 (10:12:12) dc, turn. 52 (57:68:73) sts.

Row 7: 1ch (does NOT count as st), 1dc into each of first 8 (11:10:13) dc, *(dc2tog over next 2 dc) 2 (0:2:0) times, 1dc into each of next 4 (9:8:13) dc, (dc2tog over next 2 dc) 2 (0:2:0) times*, 1dc into each of next 12 (17:16:21) dc, rep from * to * once more, 1dc into each of last 8 (11:10:13) dc, turn. 44 (57:60:73) sts.

Row 8: 1ch (does NOT count as st), 1dc into each of first 9 (9:11:11) dc, *(dc2tog over next 2 dc) 0 (2:0:2) times, 1dc into each of next 6 (5:10:9) dc, (dc2tog over next 2 dc) 0 (2:0:2) times*, 1dc into each of next 14 (13:18:17) dc, rep from * to * once more, 1dc into each of last 9 (9:11:11) dc, turn. 44 (49:60:65) sts.

Row 9: 1ch (does NOT count as st), 1dc into each of first 7 (10:9:12) dc, *(dc2tog over next 2 dc) 2 (0:2:0) times, 1dc into each of next 2 (7:6:11) dc, (dc2tog over next 2 dc) 2 (0:2:0) times*, 1dc into each of next 10 (15:14:19) dc, rep from * to * once more, 1dc into each of last 7 (10:9:12) dc, turn. 36 (49:52:65) sts.

Row 10: 1ch (does NOT count as st), 1dc into each of first 8 (8:10:10) dc, *(dc2tog over next 2 dc) 0 (2:0:2) times, 1dc into each of next 4 (3:8:7) dc, (dc2tog over next 2 dc) 0 (2:0:2) times*, 1dc into each of next 12 (11:16:15) dc, rep from * to * once more, 1dc into each of last 8 (8:10:10) dc, turn. 36 (41:52:57) sts.

Row 11: 1ch (does NOT count as st), 1dc into each of first 6 (9:8:11) dc, *(dc2tog over next 2 dc) 2 (0:2:0) times, 1 dc into each of next 0 (5:4:9) dc, (dc2tog over next 2 dc) 2 (0:2:0) times*, 1dc into each of next 8 (13:12:17) dc, rep from * to * once more, 1dc into each of last 6 (9:8:11) dc, turn. 28 (41:44:57) sts.

"The clever construction of this jacket means there are virtually no seams to sew up afterwards, making it even easier to complete!"

Sue Whiting,

Author of *Weekend Crochet for Babies*

2nd, 3rd and 4th sizes only

Row 12: 1ch (does NOT count as st), 1dc into each of first (7: 9: 9) dc, *(dc2tog over next 2 dc) (2: 0: 2) times, 1dc into each of next (1: 6: 5) dc, (dc2tog over next 2 dc) (2: 0: 2) times*, 1dc into each of next (9: 14: 13) dc, rep from * to * once more, 1dc into each of last (7: 9: 9) dc, turn. (33: 44: 49) sts.

3rd and 4th sizes only

Row 13: 1ch (does NOT count as st), 1dc into each of first (7: 10) dc, *(dc2tog over next 2 dc) (2: 0) times, 1dc into each of next (2: 7) dc, (dc2tog over next 2 dc) (2: 0) times*, 1dc into each of next (10: 15) dc, rep from * to * once more, 1dc into each of last (7: 10) dc, turn. (36: 49) sts.

4th size only

Row 14: 1ch (does NOT count as st), 1dc into each of first 8 dc, *(dc2tog over next 2 dc) twice, 1dc into each of next 3 dc, (dc2tog over next 2 dc) twice*, 1dc into each of next 11 dc, rep from * to * once more, 1dc into each of last 8 dc, turn. 41 sts.

All sizes

Next row (WS): 1ch (does NOT count as st), 1dc into each dc to end, turn. 28 (33: 36: 41) sts.

Shape for hood

Next row: 1ch (does NOT count as st), 1 dc into each of first 3 (2: 3: 2) dc, (dc2tog over next 2 dc, 1dc into each of next 2 dc) 5 (3: 7: 4) times, (dc2tog over next 2 dc, 1dc into next dc) 0 (1: 0: 1) times, (dc2tog over next 2 dc, 1dc into each of next 2 dc) 0 (3: 0: 4) times, dc2tog over next 2 dc, 1dc into each of last 3 (2: 3: 2) dc, turn. 22 (25: 28: 31) sts.

Work 1 row.

Next row: 1ch (does NOT count as st), 1dc into each of first 7 (9: 11: 13) dc, 2dc into each of next 8 (7: 6: 5) dc, 1dc into each of last 7 (9: 11: 13) dc, turn. 30 (32: 34: 36) sts.

Work 14 (15: 16: 17) rows.

Next row: 1ch (does NOT count as st), 1dc into each of first 13 (14: 15: 16) dc, (dc2tog over next 2 dc) twice, 1dc into each of last 13 (14: 15: 16) dc, turn. 28 (30: 32: 34) sts.

Work 1 row.

Next row: 1ch (does NOT count as st), 1dc into each of first 12 (13: 14: 15) dc, (dc2tog over next 2 dc) twice, 1dc into each of last 12 (13: 14: 15) dc, turn. 26 (28: 30: 32) sts.

Next row: 1ch (does NOT count as st), 1dc into



The double crochet stitches used result in a warm, dense fabric

each of first 11 (12: 13: 14) dc, (dc2tog over next 2 dc) twice, 1dc into each of last 11 (12: 13: 14) dc, turn. 24 (26: 28: 30) sts.

Fold hood in half with RS together, and join top by working 1 row of dc through both layers. Fasten off.

Making up

Join underarm seams. Sew on buttons, placing buttons on 3rd st in from front opening edge (on left front for a girl, or right front for a boy), positioning lowest button 8 (10: 12: 14)cm or 3 (4: 4¾: 5½)in up from lower edge, top button 6 (6: 7: 7)cm or 2¼ (2¼: 2¾: 2¾)in down from first row of Hood and rem button evenly spaced between. Push buttons through fabric of other front to fasten.

toptip

Confident crocheters can try crocheting the hood and hems in one colour, and the rest in another

THERE'S MORE!

This pattern is one of a number of adorable crochet designs in Sue Whiting's *Weekend Crochet for Babies*, published by New Holland Publishers, RRP £14.99. Call ☎ 020 77247773 or visit www.newhollandpublishers.com to find out more.

weekend crochet for babies

24 cute crochet designs,
from sweaters and
jackets to hats
and toys



SUE WHITING

KNIT LIBRARY

Cut out and keep our selection of eyelet rib patterns

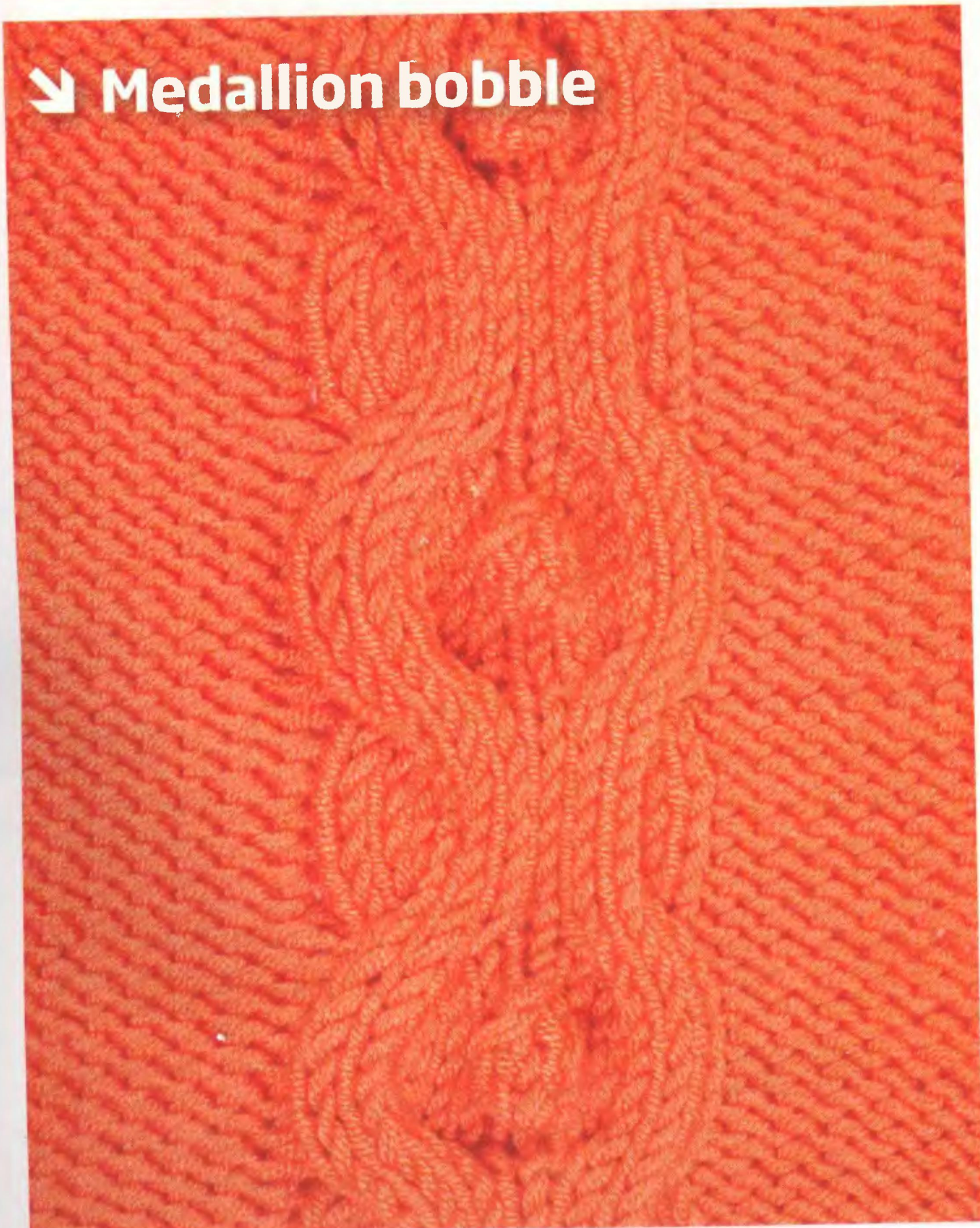
↘ Grapes on the vine



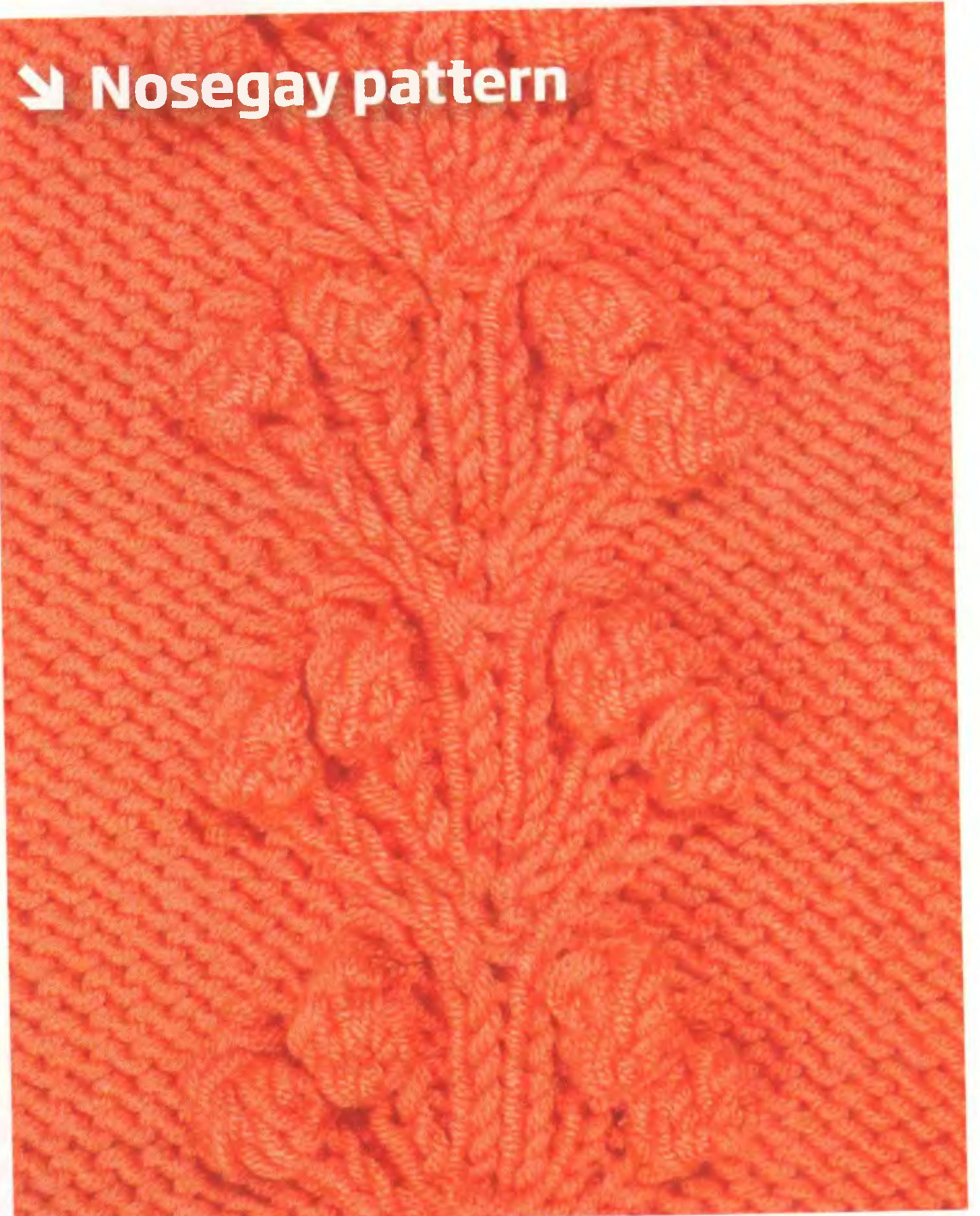
↘ Hollow oak



↘ Medallion bobble



↘ Nosegay pattern



CUT OUT & KEEP

KNIT LIBRARY

Learn to knit these four textured eyelet patterns

HOLLOW OAK

A classic narrow cable design.

Begin with 11 sts, bordered by reverse stocking stitch.

Row 1 (RS): P3, K2, MB, K2, P3.

Rows 2, 4, 6: K3, P5, K3.

Row 3: P3, MB, K3, MB, P3.

Row 5: As row 1.

Row 7: P2, C3B, P1, C3F, P2.

Row 8: K2, P2, K1, P1, K1, P2, K2.

Row 9: P1, Cr3R, K1, P1, K1, Cr3L, P1.

Row 10: K1, P3, K1, P1, K1, P3, K1.

Row 11: C3B, (P1, K1) twice, P1, C3F.

Row 12: P2, (K1, P1) 4 times, P1.

Row 13: K3, (P1, K1) 3 times, K2.

Row 14: As row 12.

Row 15: Cr3L (P1, K1) twice, P1, Cr3R.

Row 16: As row 10.

Row 17: P1, Cr3L, K1, P1, K1, Cr3R, P1.

Row 18: As row 8.



Row 19: P2, Cr3L, P1, Cr3R, P2.

Row 20: As row 2.

Repeat these 20 rows.

ABBREVIATIONS

C3B	sl 1 st onto cable needle at back, K2, K1 from cable needle
C3F	sl 2 sts onto cable needle at front, K1, K2 from cable needle
Cr3L	sl 2 sts onto cable needle at front, P1, K2 from cable needle
Cr3R	sl 1 st onto cable needle at back, K2, P1 from cable needle
MB	(K1, K1 tbl, K1, K1 tbl, K1) all into next st, pass 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th sts over first

GRAPES ON THE VINE

A decorative cable for accessories.

Begin with 14 sts bordered by reverse stocking stitch.

Row 1 (RS): P3, Cr3L, P4, K1, P3.

Rows 2, 4, 16, 18: K all K sts and P all P sts.

Row 3: P4, Cr4L, P1, Cr2R, P3.

Row 5: P3, K1, P2, Cr4L, P4.

Row 6: K4, P2, K4, MS, K3.

Row 7: P2, (K1, P3) twice, Cr3L, P3.

Row 8: K3, P2, K4, MS, p3tog, MS, K2.

Row 9: P1, (K1, P3) 3 times, Cr3L, P2.

Row 10: K2, P2, K4, MS, (p3tog, MS) twice, K1.

Row 11: (K1, P3) 4 times, K2, P2.

Row 12: K2, P2, K4, p3tog, (MS, p3tog) twice, K1.

Row 13: P1, (K1, P3) 3 times, Cr3R, P2.

Row 14: K3, P2, K4, p3tog, P1, p3tog, K2.

Row 15: P3, K1, P4, Cr3R, P3.

Row 17: P3, Cr2L, P1, Cr4R, P4.

Row 19: P4, Cr4R, P2, K1, P3.

Row 20: K3, MS, K4, P2, K4.

Row 21: P3, Cr3R, (P3, K1) twice, P2.

Row 22: K2, MS, p3tog, MS, K4, P2, K3.

Row 23: P2, Cr3R, (P1, K1) 3 times, P1.

Row 24: K1, MS, (p3tog, MS) twice, K4, P2, K2.

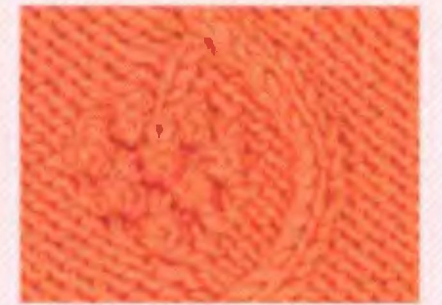
Row 25: P2, K2, (P3, K1) 4 times.

Row 26: K1, p3tog, (MS, p3tog) twice, K4, P2, K2.

Row 27: P2, Cr3L, (P3, K1) 3 times, P1.

Row 28: K2, p3tog, P1, p3tog, K4, P2, K3.

Repeat these 28 rows.



ABBREVIATIONS

Cr2L	sl 1 st onto cable needle at front, P1, K1 from cable needle
Cr2R	sl 1 st onto cable needle at back, K1, P1 from cable needle
Cr3L	sl 2 sts onto cable needle at front, P1, K2 from cable needle
Cr3R	sl 1 st onto cable needle at back, K2, P1 from cable needle
Cr4L	sl 2 sts onto cable needle at front, P2, K2 from cable needle
Cr4R	sl 2 sts onto cable needle at back, K2, P2 from cable needle
MS	(K1, P1, K1) all into next st

NOSEGAY PATTERN

This cable design is feminine and sweet, and would add a lovely touch to the front panels of a cardigan.

Begin with 16 sts, bordered by reverse stocking stitch.

Row 1 (RS): P6, C2B, C2F, P6.

Row 2: K5, C2FP, P2, C2BP, K5.

Row 3: P4, Cr2R, C2B, C2F, Cr2L, P4.

Row 4: K3, Cr2L, K1, P4, K1, Cr2R, K3.

Row 5: P2, Cr2R, P1, Cr2R, K2, Cr2L, P1, Cr2L, P2.

Row 6: (K2, P1) twice, K1, P2, K1, (P1, K2) twice.

Row 7: P2, MB, P1, Cr2R, P1, K2, P1, Cr2L, P1, MB, P2.

Row 8: K4, P1, K2, P2, K2, P1, K4.

Row 9: P4, MB, P2, K2, P2, MB, P4.

Row 10: K7, P2, K7.

Repeat these 10 rows



ABBREVIATIONS

C2F	sl 1 st onto cable needle at front, K1, K1 from cable needle
C2B	sl 1 st onto cable needle at back, K1, K1 from cable needle
C2FP	sl 1 st onto cable needle at WS, P1, P1 from cable needle
C2BP	sl 1 st onto cable needle at RS, P1, P1 from cable needle
Cr2L	sl 1 st onto cable needle at front, P1, K1 from cable needle
Cr2R	sl 1 st onto cable needle at back, K1, P1 from cable needle
MB	(K1, P1) twice into next st and turn, P4 and turn, K4 and turn, (p2tog) twice and turn, k2tog

MEDALLION BOBBLES

Chunkier yarns will work well with this pattern, which also gives a good introduction to making bobbles.

Begin with 15 sts, bordered by reverse stocking stitch.

Rows 1, 3, 7, 11, 15 (RS): P1, K13, P1.

Row 2 and every foll WS row: K1, P13, K1.

Row 5: P1, C6B, K1, C6F, P1.

Row 9: P1, K6, MB, K6, P1.

Row 13: P1, C6F, K1, C6B, P1.

Row 16: As row 2.

Repeat these 16 rows.



ABBREVIATIONS

C6B	sl 3 sts onto cable needle at back, K3, K3 from cable needle
C6F	sl 3 sts onto cable needle at front, K3, K3 from cable needle
MB	(K1, P1) twice into next st and turn, P4 and turn, K4 and turn, (p2tog) twice and turn, k2tog



February

YOUR STARS WITH **Lesley Anderson**

Pisces

(20 February - 20 March)



The lunar eclipse on the 9th may bring changes to your job situation, but will also inspire you to become more healthy in your diet and lifestyle, and stick with it.

Veer away from thoughts of food with a new knitting project – choose one of the chenille yarns on page 80 to try out.

Celebrate: Get ready for fun after the 18th

Aries

(21 March - 20 April)



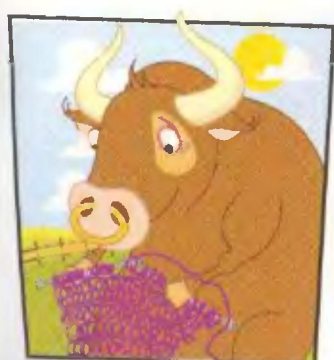
A hidden family secret will be revealed during the lunar eclipse on the 9th – guard yourself against any of the aftermath and frantic phone calls by scheduling in some of the relaxing knitting classes

listed on page 20 to learn a new skill and take your mind off any family drama.

Key dates: Love is in the air from the 2-4th

Taurus

(21 April - 21 May)



More quiet time at home is what's needed this month. The lunar eclipse on the 9th may shake things up a little, but your good fortune career-wise will carry on. While things are going so well at work, start

a knitting group there to give you the relaxation you need and a few new friends, too.

Top tip: Keep your energy levels high

Gemini

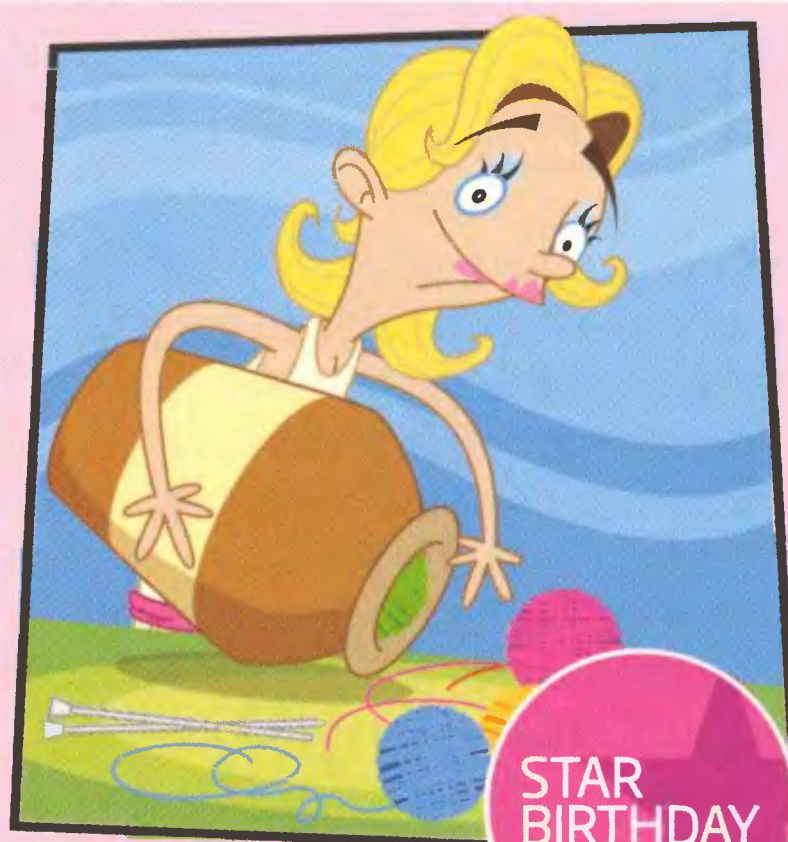
(22 May - 21 June)



If you've been thinking about taking a night class or getting a new qualification, now is the time! Some of the opportunities that come your way could be overseas, so make sure your passport is

up to date. First, though, take a trip to your local knitting shop for some travel-friendly projects.

Top tip: Career prospects will start to improve



Aquarius

(21 January - 19 February)

Your personal pleasure peak continues this month, so ride the wave and enjoy the variety of social opportunities coming your way. Respond to this month's lunar eclipse by keeping away from risky or stressful activities – what better excuse to add more knitting time into your weekly schedule!

Must knit: Our lovely dress on page 40

Cancer

(22 June - 23 July)



You will be the picture of health this month, Cancer – perhaps it's because of all of the hats, scarves and sweaters you knitted to keep yourself warm this winter? Watch out for financial

challenges around the 9th, but rest assured that they'll likely turn out to be blessings in disguise.

Must knit: Warm cabled jacket on page 12

Leo

(24 July - 23 August)



You can look forward to your romantic life being revitalised during this month of love. Show your man your appreciation for this happy turn of events by knitting him one of the recommended

sweater patterns on page 76. Who knows, it could keep the honeymoon going a little longer!

Top tip: Watch your health until the 18th

Virgo

(24 August - 23 September)



Children, health and work are your spiritual mission this month, Virgo. Your yearly social peak is starting now, so try to choose activities that will help this challenging spiritual mission. Some charity knitting would fill each area nicely, and would be good for your inner health as well.

Must knit: The butterfly toy on page 72

Libra

(24 September - 23 October)



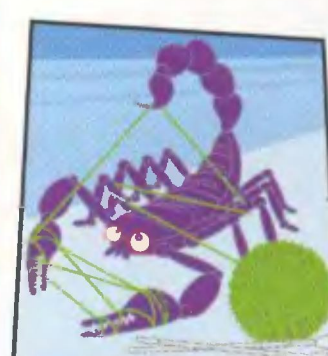
A good attitude is contagious, and you will exemplify this to the fullest. Your own happiness will both sharpen your mind and perhaps bring a new love into your life. With neither money nor your career

being a huge issue for you, you'll have time to enjoy the fun and spread your happiness around.

New project: Teach your friends to knit

Scorpio

(24 October - 22 November)



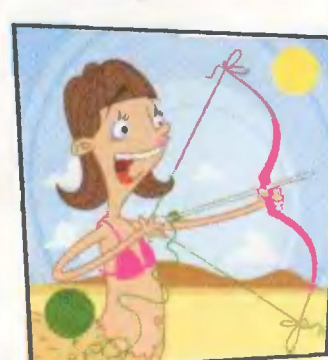
If you're still recovering from the effects of last month's solar eclipse, brace yourself for further changes that may result from this month's. Say farewell to your routine, but good finances means you can

at least keep your knitting stash well stocked for some much-needed relaxation time.

Top tip: Take it easy until the 18th

Sagittarius

(23 November - 21 December)



Your heart is more concerned with family than work this month, so channel this extra energy into knitting some lovely new items just for them. Ironically, you'll also feel a little more independent than

usual, but good communication skills will enable you to tell friends when you need a little space.

Must knit: Girl's bolero jacket on page 50

Capricorn

(22 December - 20 January)



As a Capricorn, you can't help being ambitious, but allow yourself to approach these ambitions in a new way – pay attention to your own dreams and inner goals. Now is the time to plan, so step aside from any unfinished projects

and reassess your 'to-knit' list.

Top tip: Be patient with your loved ones



"Read our handy guide and you'll be ready to start knitting today!"

Marie

Marie Parry, Editor

knittoday Basic essentials

Everything you need to start knitting

Can't wait to knit the gorgeous projects in this issue of *Knit Today*? Read our handy guide to get you started. It's a lot easier than you might think!

Whether you're new to knitting, or just need a refresher, here we show you everything you need to begin knitting our patterns today. On this page you can see the basic equipment you'll need to buy. You don't have to spend much to begin with, and you can add to your stash as you gain experience and try new things. On the opposite page we show you how easy it is to understand our patterns with our simple breakdown of what the different things on the pattern mean. Enjoy!

We show you
how to get
started
it's easy!

Yarn or wool

There are so many different types of yarn available, and so many wonderful effects you can create. Ask at your local wool shop if you're not sure which to use – chunky wool is best for beginners.

Tape measure

You'll need a tape measure in your kit so that you can measure the length of your knitting. Buy one from your local wool shop.

Needles

Knitting needles come in a range of sizes and are made from wood, plastic, metal or bamboo. We'll tell you what size needles you need for every project in *Knit Today*.

Pins

Use pins to keep the separate parts of your knitting together, before you sew them in place.

Scissors

Invest in a good pair of sharp scissors, as some yarns can be a little tricky to cut neatly.



Don't miss March's

Knit today



Zigs and zags
A trendy, casual knit for him



How I learned

Meet new knitters and the ones who taught them

For her

Mums and daughters will love wearing these fashionable geometric dresses

Out & about

Find a class or show near you





Corn row cardi

Try this comfy cardi with lace detail

FREE GIFT!

KNITTING GAUGE

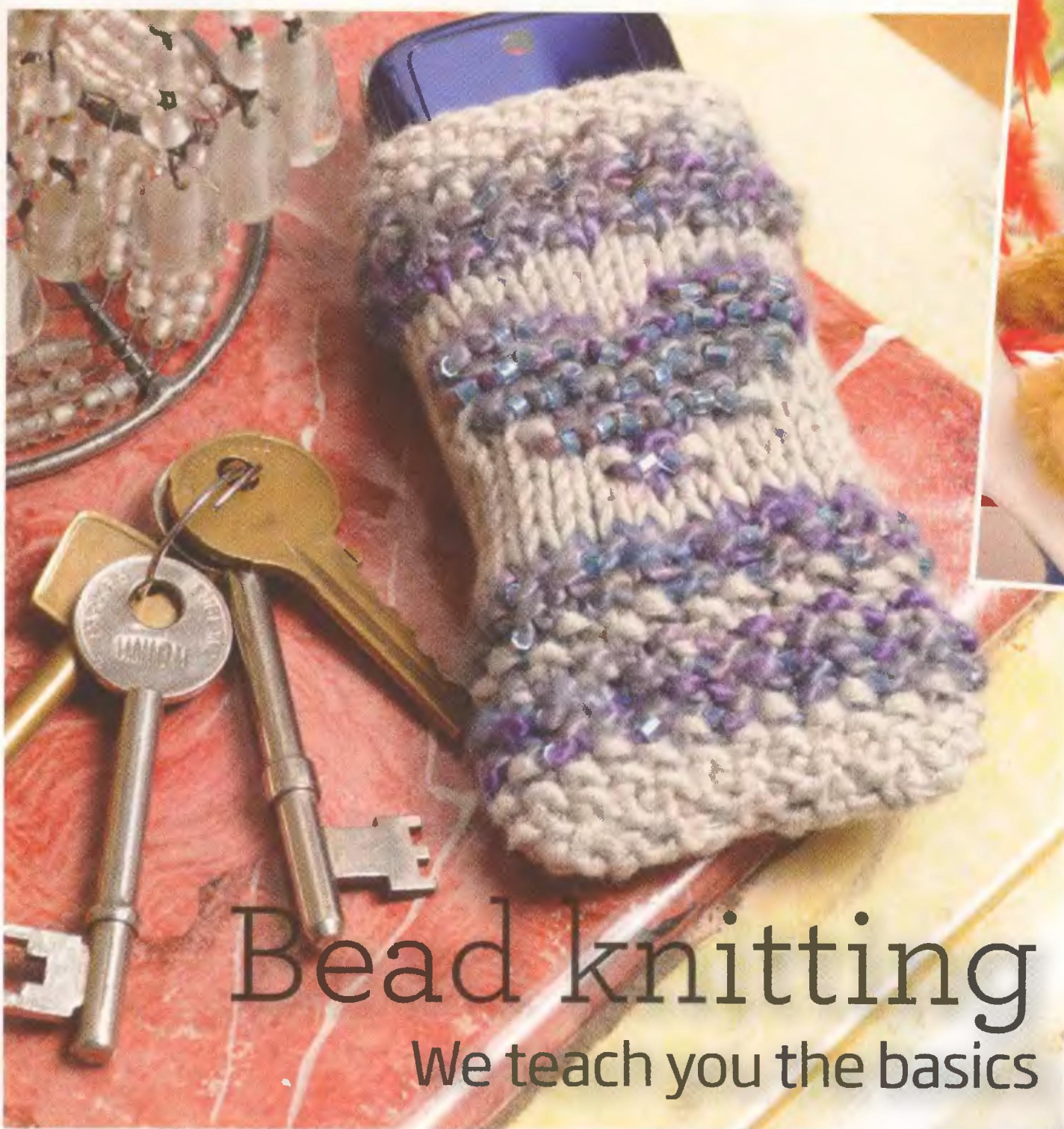
- ★ Check your needle size from 2mm to 10mm
- ★ Measure your tension



MASTERCLASS

WITH *Mary Hickmott*

Learn how to work
Intarsia patterns



Bead knitting

We teach you the basics



PLUS:

- ★ Seven pages of reviews - our favourite yarns, books, websites and patterns
- ★ Win prizes in our amazing giveaways
- ★ Get expert advice on making toys, darning and advanced crochet

ON SALE 26 FEBRUARY 2009



Last word

Find out how top knitwear designer Sian Brown creates new patterns, and where she sees knitwear going in the next few months

How did you start designing?

I began designing knitwear while doing a Fashion/Textiles degree. A visiting tutor, who was also a knitwear designer, set us a knit project and I became really interested in it. I was studying woven design, which gives the designer the chance to create the fabric as well as the shape. I went on to do my final collection in machine and hand knits, teaching myself to knit at the same time!

How does one of your designs go from an idea to a pattern?

The design process for me, as I'm sure with all designers, is ongoing. I make notes of things that I like when I see them – in shops, on people, or in magazines – and keep up-to-date with forecasts and designers' collections. I always start

out to my great team of knitters. I've managed to teach both of my daughters the basics of knitting, though they are showing no signs of wanting to work for me!

What are the trends we should look out for?

I'm now working on ideas for next spring and summer, which means looking at designer ranges, forecasts and researching new yarns. There is a lovely trend for very feminine garments using lace and crochet in pretty colours, as well as sophisticated, simple shapes. Using eco-friendly yarns is a growing movement that I think will continue – organic yarns and yarns made from sustainable sources are important, and knitters are taking an increasing interest in them. New fibres are being developed all the time.

What are your top knitting tips?

I encourage knitters to add something of their own to a design, whether it's as simple as using a different colour, changing the fastening, or adding beads, embroidery or an interesting button. Keep notes of interesting knits or patterns that you find, and you'll soon have a library of ideas that you can use for inspiration!

“ I like simple styling – I let the yarn, textures and colours add the interest. ”

with the yarn, then think about the shape, and then texture and colour. I also make test swatches to see if the idea will work.

What are your favourite styles?

I like simple styling that suits different body shapes – I let the yarn, textures and colours add the interest, and I really like combinations of textures. There are some really interesting garments around now with changes in the direction of knitting.

Do you have time to knit for yourself?

Sadly not! I sometimes do the odd test swatches, but even these tend to get farmed



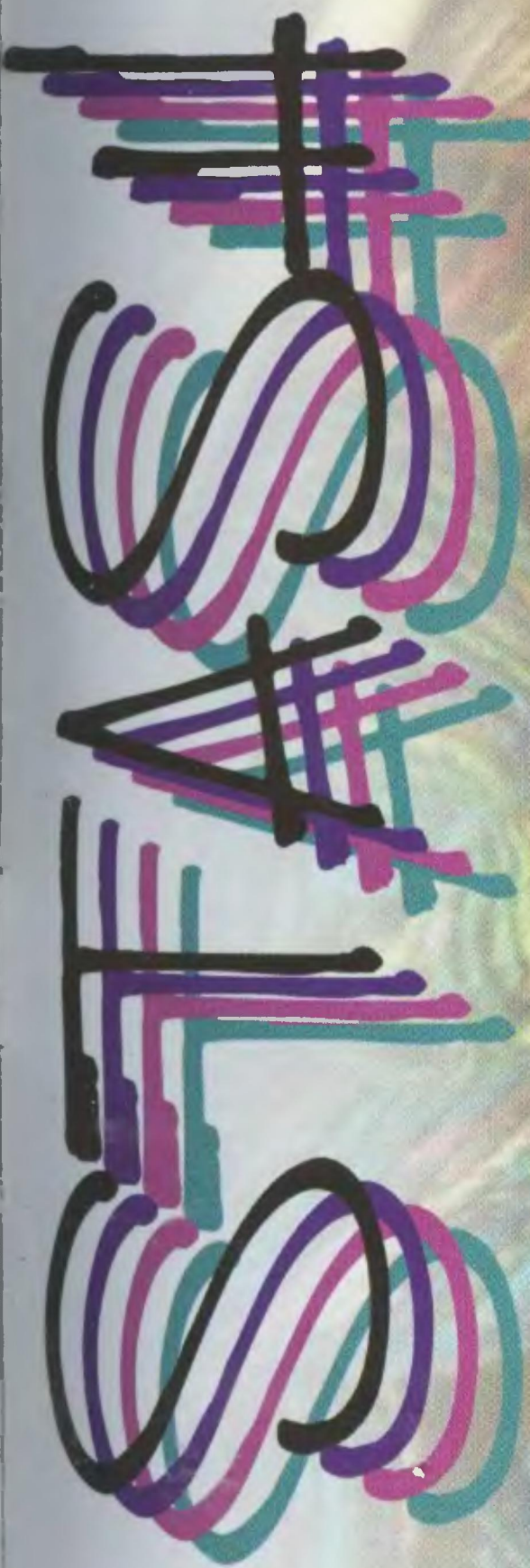
Sian designs lovely patterns for both clothing and home décor

You'll find Sian's patterns in *Knit Today*, such as this cardigan in issue 26



Sian has designed us a beautiful jacket for next month's issue of *Knit Today*. Turn to **page 96** for a sneak preview!

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